

THE NATIONAL

Wool Grower

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APRIL LAMBS

Otto J. Wolff

VOLUME XXXV

APRIL, 1945

NUMBER 4

HIGHER PROFITS



It is generally recognized that marketing costs at DENVER are among the lowest anywhere.

A recent sale of 445 lambs at \$16.70 grossed \$8,546.23. Only \$83.00 or .0097% of this amount was deducted for ALL marketing charges at DENVER.

The selling cost of no other agricultural commodity bears such a low percentage relationship to its value as does livestock, nor sells at such a low cost for like volume.

Consult your market representative!

**Greater Nets Mean More Money to
the Producers who**

SHIP 'EM TO DENVER

1945 Annual PUBLIC AUCTION CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

Sacramento County Fair Grounds, GALT, California

MAY 14-15, 1945



This is the top ram of the 1944 California Ram Sale, a Hampshire yearling, raised and exhibited by C. M. Hubbard and Sons, Junction City, Oregon (at the right), purchased by Prof. R. F. Miller, representing University of California (at left).

THE FAR WEST'S GREAT PUBLIC AUCTION

1400 RAMS — 400 Pure Bred EWES

Sale Catalog Now Ready. Write to

CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

595 Mission Street
SAN FRANCISCO 5, CALIFORNIA

The Cutting Chute

THE COVER

Otto J. Wolff, sheepman-photographer of Rapid City, South Dakota, furnished our cover picture this month. It accompanies the feature article, South Dakota's Sheep Industry (page 14). A little shaky in limb and timid in spirit now, these lambs will weigh around 50 pounds by the middle of June and be pretty frisky.

Well-Known Market Reporter Dies

James E. Poole, who for many years gave such interesting reports of the Chicago market in the National Wool Grower, died on March 28, at his home, 10732 Longwood Drive, Chicago, at the age of 84. Prior to his retirement two years ago, he had reported the livestock market at Chicago for nearly 50 years, and during eighteen of them, had broadcast such news twice daily over a local station.

Mrs. Poole, a daughter, and two sisters survive.

Farm Real Estate Values

Values of farm real estate rose 15 per cent during the year ended in March, 1944, as against a 21 per cent advance in 1919-1920 when the peak of the World War I boom was reached. Values have now advanced at an average rate of one per cent a month for four years.

Besse Relected Manufacturers' Head In New York

On March 21, 1945, in New York, the National Association of Wool Manufacturers continued Arthur Besse in the position of president, with Walter Humphreys as secretary. Vice presidents are: Franklin W. Hobbs, Moses Pendleton, Carroll D. Newell, Frederic W. Tipper and Harold J. Walter.

Lindsay Remains Head National Wool Trade

Harold T. Lindsay was retained as president of the National Wool Trade Association at its annual election in Boston on March 8. Vice presidents include: George L. Anderson of Adams & Leland, Boston; R. C. Elliott, Salt Lake City; Marcus Harris of the Harris Wool & Fur Co., St. Louis; Vester T. Hughes, Mertzson, Texas; H. Clyde Moore of the Colonial Wool Co., Boston; H. S. Silberman of S. Silberman & Sons, Chicago; Lorin H. Tryon, San Francisco; and Herbert K. Webb of Charles J. Webb Sons Co., Inc., Philadelphia. C. Willard Bigelow was reelected secretary-treasurer.

Meat Supplies

On March 1, W.F.A. reported the total of all meats in storage as 591,986,000 pounds, which compares with a total of 617,533,000 pounds on February 1, this year, and 1,256,108,000 pounds on hand, March 1, 1944. The March 1 holdings this year were 19 million pounds below the previous low point in 1936. The average March 1 holdings (1940-44) are given as 960,151,000 pounds.

No Runts among these

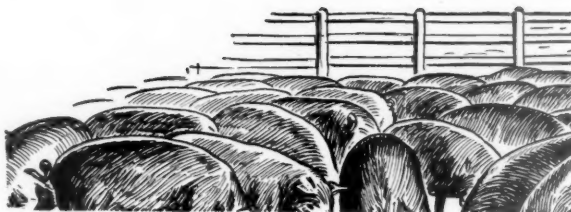
A LOT of credit goes to our Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations where men spend their lives working out improved methods of breeding and feeding. For example, E. F. Ferrin, head of the swine division of the University of Minnesota, recently ran a feeding test with seven lots of pigs. He found that *too small an amount of protein in the ration produces more runts, slower gains and less profit.*

All pigs in the test started at an average weight of 50 pounds and were self-fed without pasture for 14 weeks. All seven lots received the same kind of protein supplement which was tankage and soybean meal in equal parts with 10% alfalfa meal to supply adequate amounts of B vitamins. Some lots got a high-protein ration (18% of the total feed); others were cut down to 15% and 12% protein. As pigs get heavier, they need less protein, so in some lots the amount of protein was reduced as they gained in weight.



E. F. Ferrin

The best results came from an 18% protein ration until the pigs reached 100 pounds, and 15% protein after that weight. The hogs on low-protein rations made smaller gains and were more uneven in individual weights when the test ended. By just such careful experiments, the "know-how" of hog raising has reached its present efficiency.



A Martha Logan Recipe

for PARTY-STYLE MEAT PIE

To serve four, buy $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of table-ready meat loaf—either minced ham, New England cooked specialty or bologna. Dice. (Or, if you prefer, use $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of cubed beef.) Mix 2 tablespoons flour with 1 teaspoon salt and dash of pepper. Dredge cubes of meat in flour mixture. Brown in 2 tablespoons of melted fat. Add 1 medium onion which has been diced, and brown. Combine with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup each of cooked green peas and cooked sliced carrots. Cover with hot water or leftover gravy. Pour into a deep, wide casserole. Top with mashed potatoes. Bake in a hot oven (450° F.) about 20 minutes, or until potatoes are browned. Serve with a fresh fruit salad, hot rolls and dessert.

SULPHUR FOR LAMB COCCIDIOSIS

Coccidiosis in lambs may be successfully prevented by the addition of ground crude sulphur to their feed in proportions ranging from $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the ration, claims the Idaho Wool Growers Bulletin. Effectiveness of this sulphur treatment has been demonstrated by the U.S.D.A. working in cooperation with large lamb feeders, the report states.

There's More Money in Eggs

—if you: 1) collect them often, 2) cool them promptly, 3) keep them clean. All this improves their grade and therefore means a better price to you.



U. S. IS TOP BEEF PRODUCER

Farmers and ranchers in the United States raise more cattle for beef than in any country on earth. We have a third more cattle than Russia, twice as many as Argentina or Brazil. There are actually more cattle in India, but there the cow is sacred and not used for food.

\$5 — IDEA WINNER — \$5

1. Keep first aid articles—tape, gauze, iodine, etc.—handy in a glass jar in the kitchen, workshop or barn. Also keep nuts, bolts, and nails assorted as to size in glass jars.
2. Use a salt shaker in planting small seeds in vegetable or flower gardens. They are distributed more evenly.

—Z. A. Dine, Borger, Texas

★ ★ BUY MORE WAR BONDS ★ ★

LOST! A MILLION EXTRA ANNUAL MEAT RATIONS

Approximately 200 million pounds of meat a year are being wasted as a result of bruises, crippling and death losses of livestock in transit to market, according to H. R. Smith of the National Livestock Loss Prevention Board. This Board has found that all of us who have to do with the handling of livestock can help save much of this needed meat by following these simple rules:

1. Inspect chutes, trucks and cars for nails and rough corners.
2. Do not overload or jam animals. Partition mixed loads of livestock.
3. Never beat or prod with whips or clubs.
4. When trucking, start and stop with caution; watch for bumps, ruts and sharp curves.
5. Check your load frequently. Livestock shift in transit.

By observing these simple rules, we can all cooperate in cutting down this loss of a million extra meat rations a year; and we can help contribute to the nation the additional meat supplies which it needs so greatly *right now!*

SODA BILL SEZ:



That you can't make fat hogs on slim rations.

That money invested in War Bonds buys tanks today—tractors for you tomorrow!

grunts



CATFISH CAN'T RAISE CORN

Nature has equipped catfish with feelers so they can find their way about in muddy, silt-laden rivers. Most of that mud and silt is rich topsoil from once fertile farmlands. The type of soil that should still be producing 50 to 100 bushels of corn.

Catfish can't use that fertile mud to raise corn, and that's too bad. Because right now, America needs all the corn it can produce. There's no need to let catfish have any part of your farm. Your topsoil can be saved. Soil conservation practices hold the raindrops where they fall, control water erosion, stop gullyng, stabilize the soil. The Agricultural Extension Service of your State University will be glad to help you work out a special program to fit your farm.

Through soil conservation practices fertility is maintained, crops make better yields, carrying capacity of pastures is increased, more and cheaper feeds are provided for livestock. All this means more money in the farmer's pocket. Swift & Company believes that whatever helps livestock helps all of us—producer, meat packer and consumer. To you as a producer, we earnestly suggest that an investigation of soil conservation land management may be worth your while.

F.M. Simpson.

Agricultural Research Dept.

Swift & Company CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

★ NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS — AND YOURS ★

Right Eating Adds Life to Your Years, and Years to Your Life

Keep Your Cream Checks Up!

If you've noticed that the cream content of your milk goes down at this time of year, it may indicate that your dairy cows are not getting all the feed they need for heavy production. Those first blades of grass aren't as good as they look, for they won't give the cows all the proteins they require. So don't turn your dairy cattle out to graze and expect them to take care of all their feed requirements with early pasture.

Supplement their spring ration of grass with grain and protein supplement mixture, and hay... grain and protein supplement for milk production, hay for necessary roughage. This tonic is sure to put new spring in the step of an undernourished cow.

The best indication of contentment in the dairy herd is the butterfat test of your milk!



\$5 IDEA

Salvage metal pails or tubs which have holes in the bottom by pouring in a half-inch of concrete. Let stand a week before using. Makes them a trifle heavier, but serviceable.

—Mrs. A. L. Miskimon, Wellsville, Kans.

STAMP 'EM OUT!

EVERY
YEAR—

CATTLE GRUBS

IN THIS COUNTRY SPOIL
ENOUGH LEATHER TO PUT
SOLES ON THE SHOES OF

ABOUT 12,000,000 MARCHING MEN



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Wyoming Wool Growers Association

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Montana to Test Its Wools

A wool testing laboratory is to be established at the Montana State College at Bozeman under a law recently enacted by the Montana State Legislature. In addition to testing Montana fleeces for shrinkage, strength, etc., a field force is to be employed to obtain the samples.

Western Shipping Facilities O.K.

The Department of Traffic of the Union Pacific Railroad Company informs the National Wool Grower that they are having no delays in handling sheep and lambs moving eastward. So far during the present season they have handled no California lambs eastbound, but are preparing to handle such movement as "expeditiously as humanly possible."

They also report that there is only one embargo on wool at the present time (April 5), and that is on wool intended for the Wool Scouring Company, Fairhill Station, Philadelphia via PRR.

This information clarifies the statement carried in the Cutting Chute of the March Wool Grower (page 4), which was clipped from the California Wool Grower.

Inter-American Farm Conference

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations announces that the Third Inter-American Conference on Agriculture will be held at Caracas, Venezuela, July 24, 1945, lasting for two weeks. The primary objective of the conference discussions this year will be to survey the problems affecting agriculture in the postwar period.

Wool Manufacture in France

Shipment of raw wools from England to France for manufacture in French mills commenced early in March when one thousand tons were delivered. The transaction, according to the Daily News Record, was handled by government authorities. This is the first time since the invasion of the low countries by Germany that wool supplies have gone into that area.

British Government to Consider Stockpile Disposal

According to the Daily News Record, the British Government is to start consideration of the disposal of its stockpile of wools on April 16. Members of the British wool trade are complaining because they have not been asked to have representatives in these conferences.

Commodity Credit Corporation Extended

The bill extending the Commodity Credit Corporation for two years, that is until June 30, 1947, and increasing its borrowing powers, became a law April 12.

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NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1945

509 Pacific National Life Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

J. M. Jones
Irene Young

Editors

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members \$5.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

Comments to the Industry

Meat

THE meat problem is getting its usual spring "airing" in Washington this and the past month, not only before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in its consideration of the extension of the life of the Office of Price Administration, but before other committees investigating the food situation.

The tangled and confused responsibility for food among the various government agencies is now beginning to show, particularly in regard to meat. Heretofore this bungling and overlapping between the agencies—O.P.A., W.F.A., and O.E.S.—have not been realized entirely because of the tremendous production of livestock. Many unnecessary controls have now been in effect sufficiently long so that production of meat is necessarily down.

The responsibility for this situation rests largely with Washington officials. There is no doubt that the western officials of these agencies have done a very commendable job and are still trying to make the regulations as operative as possible.

It was disappointing to learn that the Regional Agricultural Advisor for O.P.A. has resigned his newly created post. The reason for his resignation has not been learned, but he often said if it were not possible to do an honest job for the agricultural producer, he wouldn't be there long. Perhaps the dictates from Washington were quite severe.

Releases from Washington officials seldom mention lamb as an important factor in the meat supply. It represents only about 5 per cent of the total supply. Nevertheless, controls are extremely severe from the producers' standpoint, and extreme liquidation in the industry has resulted and it is continuing in 1945. The War Food Administration has been given the job of the allocation of meat products and the supervision of production. As far as the sheep industry is concerned, they haven't been aware of conditions obtaining. It is the duty of the Office of Price Administration to regulate the allocation of the meat by rationing and control its price. This has been done

as far as the producer is concerned to the extent that the sheepmen is being regulated out of business.

Tariff

Press reports state that the President and James F. Byrnes, former mobilization director, have asked for sacrifice on the part of the sheep industry by increasing production in the name of patriotism. This comes at a time when other agencies are forcing liquidation by regulations.

On top of this condition, the President and the State Department are asking further tariff concessions by means of the Doughton Bill to permit the reduction of present tariff duties 50 per cent. For the majority of commodities imported, this means a reduction of 75 per cent from the effective duties in the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930. This would permit a reduction in the duties on lamb from \$3 per head in the Act of 1930 to 75 cents per head, as one 50 per cent cut has already been made. The Canadian importation of 100,000 head of lamb last fall is just a taste of things to come.

It is impossible to understand the full significance of these reciprocal trade agreements to our country because in most instances the agreements have not been operative on account of the war. It will be recalled that the European countries were engaged in war before the United States. Therefore, the agreement with Great Britain in 1939, reducing the rag duty from 18 cents to 9 cents, actually was operative only one year. But in that year imports of rags from Great Britain increased 785 per cent, or the equivalent of 20,000,000 pounds of wool.

1945 NATIONAL RAM SALE

The 30th National Ram Sale will be held at the Salt Lake Union Stockyards at North Salt Lake, Utah, on August 21 and 22, 1945. The rules and terms of the sale are the same as last year. No artificial coloring will be permitted, and blackfaced rams, yearlings or over, must be machine-shorn on or after April 1, 1945.

It is strange that the greatest industrial nation in the world and, at present, one of the greatest producers of raw materials should wear the rags of Great Britain. It will indeed be significant when lend-lease fabrics and materials begin coming back to the United States in the form of rags for the American people to buy.

The agreement with Argentina, which reduced duties on wools not finer than 44's an average of 44 per cent, was not made until 1941 and has not been permitted to operate with that country. But now that Argentina is again included in the "family circle," and as shipping facilities increase, undoubtedly these wools will come in under the lower duties.

Although the agreement with Mexico was not made until 1942, which cut lamb and sheep duties 50 per cent, the results were felt last fall with Canadian lambs.

Fees

More fuel is added to the fire by the rumblings of proposed increased fees in both the Forest Service and the Grazing Service. It is anyone's guess, but it seems unlikely that the Forest Service will request a change in the method of computation of forest fees which has been in effect since 1933 and is based on the market price of live lambs.

The Director of the Taylor Grazing Act has made the statement that no proposal for increased fees has been made by him to the Secretary of the Interior. He did not say that a proposal for increased fees would not be made to the Secretary at any future time. He has also denied that the range appraisal study was used as a basis for the fees he proposed to the State Advisory Boards' Council last November. Apparently he arbitrarily took a base figure of what in his opinion would constitute a reasonable fee.

It would appear to be a safe position that no fee increase will be announced by the Secretary of Interior until after Senator McCarran's hearings to be held here in the West at a later date, but possibly not before June.

Some members of the Senate have suggested that now might possibly be a

good time to cut grazing appropriations. The Grazing Director says this is a threat that will have no bearing on his proposing increased fees.

The final question of course is "Should the United States have a domestic sheep industry?" This question is going to be placed squarely before the Congress of the United States in a series of hearings scheduled to start shortly after April 15, 1945.

All of the above matters will be considered and, in addition, questions on parity and import quotas on wool.

Live Prices

With cries coming from Washington that there is a shortage of meat, a condition livestock men told them would happen long ago, the question of prices at the central markets comes in for some consideration. Prices paid for sheep and lambs have been determined by ceiling prices established for carcass lamb and mutton, and these ceiling prices have not been changed for over three years.

Live prices have fluctuated up and down over this period with no apparent stability, although ceilings for the dressed meat have been the same, and government reports show that sales of this meat in most instances and times have been at the ceilings. Many reasons have been given from time to time for this fluctuation in live prices.

Prices paid for sheep and lambs are as high if not higher than at any other time in the history of price control. In attempting to find out some of the reasons for prices being paid at this time, a number of factors have been brought forth by competent observers:

1. Although February's lamb slaughter showed an increase of approximately 4 per cent; cattle, an increase of 10 per cent; vealers, about even; hogs show a decrease of 56 per cent, and there is a decrease in poultry of between 15 and 20 per cent. This has naturally meant that less meat has been available. It might be well to mention here, however, that William H. Davis, director of economic stabilization, has increased the price for young chickens an average of about one and a quarter cents a pound. This shows that these agencies know what it takes to get production if they want it.

2. It has also been reported that the Army requirements have been considerably heavier during this past period.

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

May 14-15: California Ram Sale, Sacramento County Fair Grounds, Galt, California.

June 4-5: Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah.

August 21-22: National Ram Sale, North Salt Lake, Utah.

3. Now in addition to these increased requirements and the decrease in hogs and poultry available for slaughter, the black market has reportedly increased, particularly on the East Coast and in the large cities on the West Coast. It has been indicated in some reports that sizable quantities of lamb and mutton are selling at 10 to 15 cents per pound over legitimate ceilings. It is impossible to prove this statement, but at least there are indications that such is taking place.

4. It is also reported that the set-asides on beef and pork are much more strictly enforced. This means, of course, that a larger proportion of the lambs slaughtered goes to serve the civilian trade. Therefore, it creates increased demand.

5. Lamb pelts at this time are the most valuable. The pelt of a full-wooled live lamb is worth approximately \$4. This, of course, will hold true until all of the woolled lambs are sold.

6. The psychological effect upon the American people that the products are in short supply does, without doubt, create an increased demand. At least this seems to be true in almost every instance where products are claimed to be in short supply by Washington officials.

Because of the fact that ewes are selling for two and a half and three times as much now as early last fall, it might be well to try to determine the cause for this price increase.

1. It is indicated that this strong demand for ewes is occasioned by the fact that there are no ration points. Of course it has been brought to our attention many times that mutton did not have a market in this country, but apparently a demand has been created; particularly among the hotel and restaurant trade there seems to be a good demand for the better grades of mutton.

2. Because of the tremendous civilian demand, all the mutton can be used for

this purpose because there is no set-aside or rated order as there is in the case of beef, lamb, and pork.

3. Sausage is in very strong demand from the civilian trade, and much lean mutton may be used for this particular product. It is understood that Lend-Lease is taking very little mutton at this time. Unlike other periods when other meat is in more plentiful supply, there is really no need for Lend-Lease to come into the market for mutton.

Some government agencies have stated their concern over the extent of the slaughter of ewes and expressed the need to stop the reduction. There have been many schemes indicated as to how this could be done, but of course the only successful way of handling this proposition is to again permit the sheep industry to operate profitably. This situation also will be brought to the attention of the members of Congress at the forthcoming hearings.

J.M.J.

Capital Gains Ruling

THE Bureau of Internal Revenue has now officially published the ruling on capital gains which was quoted in the article by Frank Boice and Stephen H. Hart in the February issue (p. 29). The ruling, entitled I. T. 3712, appears in Internal Revenue Bulletin No. 3 issued on February 12, 1945, and it is reprinted in all the major tax services. Although the wording of the official regulation is slightly different from the draft quoted in the article, there are no substantial changes warranting republication.

This concludes the second major job undertaken by the National Livestock Tax Committee. The Bureau has now recognized the unit livestock price method of inventorying, and it has agreed to apply the capital gains limitations to sales of breeding livestock. There may well be "bugs" in the rulings secured from the Bureau or in its administration of these rulings, but the National Livestock Tax Committee will watch developments and take further action if advisable.

As a third job, the Committee will try to persuade the Bureau to clarify and facilitate the method by which a livestock producer can change from the cash receipts and disbursements basis to the accrued basis, involving the use of inventories. The present regulations

and practices of the Bureau on this subject are very complicated and unfair. The Committee wants to simplify the procedure and avoid heavy taxes on producers who make the change. Those who want to stay on the cash basis, of course, would not be affected.

Wool Freight Rate Matters

I.C.C. Asked Again to Conduct Investigation

A petition asking the Interstate Commerce Commission to reconsider its refusal of February 9, 1945, to reinstate its wool freight rate investigation was filed by Chas. E. Blaine, traffic manager for the National Wool Growers Association, on March 22, 1945, and a similar request was made by the War Food Administration on the 28th.

Both actions followed a meeting of the Association's special freight rate committee in Salt Lake City on March 15, 1945, called by Dr. H. C. Gardiner, its chairman, at the direction of President Winder. Present and participating in the discussion, in addition to President Winder and Dr. Gardiner, were: Chas. E. Blaine, traffic manager, Phoenix, Arizona; Chas. B. Bowling, chief of the Transportation Rates and Services Division, Marketing Facilities Branch, W.F.A.; Neal Williams, Chamber of Commerce, Fargo, North Dakota; Frank Aughnay, Public Service Commission, Bismarck, North Dakota; John A. Reed, committee member, Kemmerer, Wyoming; James A. Hooper, committee member, Salt Lake City, Utah; R. C. Rich, Burley, Idaho; Charles A. Root, Utah Public Service Commission; J. M. Jones and E. E. Marsh, secretary and assistant secretary, respectively, of the National Association.

Discussion centered on whether a formal complaint should be filed by the producers' and marketing associations who made the original petition for the investigation (June 22, 1942), or the Commission be asked to reconsider its refusal to reinstate the investigation, which had been dropped when the growers asked for a delay to get material ready.

Since the Commission was asked to conduct the investigation under Section 5 (b) of the Transportation Act, which not only "authorizes" but "directs" that

such investigations shall be made, all those attending the meeting held that it was better procedure to ask the Commission to reconsider its action.

Immediately after arriving at his office in Phoenix, Mr. Blaine wrote the Commission for permission to file such a petition, which was granted, and as stated above, the petition was filed for the original petitioners, including the National Wool Growers Association and all of its affiliates except the New Mexico Wool Growers Association; the National Wool Marketing Corporation and its affiliates; the National Livestock Producers Association, the Pacific Wool Growers, and the Livestock Traffic Association. The War Food Administration followed with its petition. It is also understood that the public utilities commissions of states interested in wool production are backing the petition.

If the Commission again refuses to make the investigation on its own behalf, a formal complaint will be filed.

Cartels

WE have been hearing a lot about cartels for the past few months and we will hear more between now and April 25 when the great and would-be-great meet at San Francisco to usher in the millennium. Washington acts shocked to find that cartels exist in this country, but in truth it has formed many cartels and has had full knowledge of many that have been in existence for decades.

The word "cartel" is just a mysterious name for a very common set-up that involves every nation in the world that enters into international trade. It is simply an agreement between two or more nations or individuals of different nations to control prices by any one of many practices. Here at home a cartel is a trust agreement under which large corporations fix prices by limiting production and dividing sales territory. Within the Union it is in violation of the law unless operated by the government itself and unless engaged in the production of a few articles enumerated in the Tyding Amendment.

For decades the oil producers of the world have maintained a cartel under which each company controlled the sales of petroleum and its products in certain fixed territory. Most of the world trade in chemicals and drugs is controlled by cartels; the makers of dye

stuff in Germany enter into an agreement with the producers in this country and Great Britain, for instance, that they will not compete with each other in foreign markets. The producers of each country agree to sell only in a certain territory and then at a fixed price. Most of Germany's export business was done on a cartel basis. They had agreements all over the world and profited greatly therefrom.

At the present time our own government has set up cartels covering the importation of coffee and sugar. We agree to take so much of each from certain countries at fixed prices. I have been informed that there is an international wheat cartel covering imports, but I have no facts. It is said that throughout the world there are about 180 cartel agreements in force covering a very large part of the world's total export trade. In fact, in South America and Europe these cartels are encouraged by the different governments as a means of stimulating exports at a price which will be profitable to the producers. Without them international competition would result in trade wars between the producers of the world, and foreign trade would become a loss to all nations instead of just to the United States.

It is difficult to reach these international trust agreements by law because two countries are involved, but the Justice Department has now instituted suits against American producers engaged in cartel agreements. The Webb-Pomerene Act legalized cartels at one time.

As a rule these cartels affect patented articles and manufactured products; only a few of them apply to agricultural products. If a cartel is fairly set up, I believe it is a necessity of world trade and should not be abolished until carefully investigated. The manufacturer who would send a shipment of electrical supplies to a foreign country must have some assurance of sale at a fair price, otherwise he might lose the entire shipment. Under these international cartels, those entering the agreement are frequently placed under restrictions as rigid as laws concerning the disposal of such products. Suppose the wool growers of America, Australia, and Argentina should get together and fix the price of wool until such time as the stockpiles have been disposed of? That would be a perfect cartel.

Cartels are nothing to be scared of unless they are employed for an oppres-

sive purpose. We have hundreds of them here at home. S. W. McClure

Colorado Wool School

THE Sheep and Wool Producers' School in Colorado is a project which some states have and other states could probably adopt with worthwhile results. Two schools were held this year—one in Durango on March 6 and 7 and one in Monte Vista on March 8 and 9. Many down-to-earth problems of the industry as well as practical solutions were discussed by growers with choice talent from the Extension Service of the Colorado A. & M. College at Fort Collins and other capable men of the industry.

A. C. Allen, secretary of the Colorado Wool Growers Association, spoke on problems of the Colorado sheep producer.

Harry C. Smith, extension animal husbandman, Colorado A. & M. College, spoke on range feeding. Mr. Smith emphasized the fact that high-priced mixed feeds are frequently not needed in feeding operations. Simple additions of feed containing necessary elements such as proteins, calcium, etc., will usually suffice. Food values of various feeds also were discussed.

A. Lamar Esplin, sheep specialist Colorado A. & M. College, spoke on "Culling the Flock and Replacement for Greater Production." He stated the object of the sheep enterprise is, in simple words,—"to produce lambs and wool in the largest amounts and in the most valuable form from each ewe in the band, with the smallest expense." He stressed the fact that body conformation is important in selecting ewes. Large ewes with deep bodies, straight legs, straight backs, and open faces are desirable. From the standpoint of wool, he said, the length of the staple determines its value both on a clean and on a grease basis.

Eugene Bertoni, Assistant Professor of Wool, Colorado A. & M. College, spoke on "Fabrics Which Compete With Wool," and presented comprehensive illustrations on rayon production. Stressing the fact that we mustn't get too complacent about wool, Mr. Bertoni said that wool producers have fallen down in not impressing upon the public mind the fact that wool is a superior fabric, or, as he stated the case, "Nobody done told them." One interesting fact brought out in his talk is

that a rayon blanket when new may entrap as much warmth as a wool blanket, but after the first laundering the nap in the rayon blanket goes down and never comes up; the nap in a wool blanket does come up after laundering and therefore retains its warmth qualities.

Julius C. Nordby, director, U. S. Sheep Breeding Station, Dubois, Idaho, gave two very comprehensive lectures—one entitled "Changes in Postwar Industry and Range Sheep Production," and the other, "What Can Research Contribute to the Basic Stability of the Sheep Industry?" In his first talk he stressed the fact that wool marketing is the most primitive marketing system we have in the U. S. today but some progress is now on the way. He further pointed out that production is what counts in breeding—not whether an animal is a grand champion. Mr. Nordby also presented graphs covering experiments in greater production at the Dubois Experiment Station, and also discussed increased production through selective breeding.

Dr. Floyd Cross of the Colorado A. & M. College spoke on "Parasite Control and Pregnancy Disease." Effective formulas to combat both internal and external parasites were given by Dr. Cross, both in his talk and in the open discussion that followed. His talk covered all of the major parasites and diseases which infest sheep and cost growers untold sums each year.

E. E. Marsh, assistant secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, spoke on "Eighty Years of Progress with the National."

Mr. James Routson, chief appraiser, Rocky Mountain Region, War Food Administration, spoke at Durango and Mr. John Fallon, also a wool appraiser with the War Food Administration, spoke at Monte Vista. These gentlemen discussed wool appraising and what it means to woolgrowers. They talked on the C.C.C. purchasing program, how it was evolved, and the ceiling prices laid down by the Office of Price Administration for different grades of wool based on spinning count, length of fiber and shrinkage. These gentlemen stated that bags submitted for appraisal represent 10 per cent of the clip. They appealed to growers to assist by packing the wool clip properly. They spoke of the severe penalty to be enforced this year for clips in which tags, corral sweepings and off wools are not packed separately.

Newton Bowman, secretary of the Colorado Wool Marketing Association, spoke on wool marketing and some of the things which have happened under the C.C.C. purchasing program.

Other speakers at Monte Vista were Allen McCready, acting supervisor, Rio Grande Forest, who gave an illustrated talk on range management, and Mike Hayes, sheep salesman, Denver Union Stock Yards, who spoke on lamb markets, lamb grading, and some of the accomplishments of the National Wool Growers Association convention. A. H. Long spoke at the Durango meeting on "Marketing the 1945 Clip."

Fleece exhibits as well as tag and shearing demonstrations added much to the interest and value of the school.

E.E.M.

Hay Ceilings

THE O.P.A. has issued a price regulation effective May 1, 1945, which applies to all domestic sales of all hay. The ceiling prices are computed to reflect parity prices to the producer. Four divisions or classes of hay are defined as follows:

Division 1.—Alfalfa and light mixed alfalfa.

Division 2.—Heavy mixed alfalfa; timothy and clover; grain, wild oat, vetch, and grain mixed hay; and lespedeza and lespedeza mixed hay.

Division 3.—Soybean and soybean mixed hay; cowpea and cowpea mixed hay; and sweet clover hay and kudzu. No U. S. hay standards exist for sweet clover and kudzu.

Division 4.—Prairie hay; Johnson and Johnson mixed hay; peanut and peanut mixed hay; grass hay; mixed hay; cane or sorgho; Sudan grass; and all other kinds not specifically listed in these divisions.

Farm or base prices are set up for each of the five areas. South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado are in Area I, while Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas are in Area II. The base prices for those areas for each of the hay divisions are set up in the table below.

O.P.A. FARM OR "BASE" PRICES, ALL GRADES, LOOSE HAY, BY AREAS OF PRODUCTION

Areas of Production	May-October Divisions of Hay			
	1	2	3	4
I	\$19.50	\$17.50	\$15.50	\$13.50
II	21.00	19.00	17.00	15.00

Heretofore ceiling prices have applied to alfalfa hay and under the new regulation those prices are increased 50 cents in both areas one and two.

The Sheepman's Dilemma

Excerpts from an address by Dr. M. E. Ensminger before the Washington Wool Growers Association on January 15, 1945. Space, unfortunately, does not permit reproduction of the entire address. Dr. Ensminger is head of the Department of Animal Husbandry of the State College of Washington and devotes much time to the livestockmen's problems.

The Sheep and Wool Situation 1940-1944

THE following table shows clearly enough that the sheep producer is placed in a squeeze by prevailing price controls. This summary represents average prices as encountered by sheep producers in the Yakima Valley area of Washington.

In brief, rather rigid price ceilings apply to those products which the pro-



Dr. M. E. Ensminger, Head, Department of Animal Husbandry, State College of Washington

THE SHEEP AND WOOL SITUATION 1940-1944
(Prices Based f.o.b. Yakima Valley Points)

Year	Ave. Wool Price	Ave. Fat Lamb Price	Ave. Feeder Lamb Price	Ave. Fat Ewe Price	Ave. Alfalfa Hay Price	Ave. Barley Price	Ave. Herder's Salary
1940	.27½	.07	.06¾	.02¼	\$7.00	\$19.00	\$65.00
1941	.32½	.10	.09½	.03½	9.00	23.00	72.50
1942	.38½	.13	.12	.04½	16.50	30.00	112.50
1943	.38½	.13	.12	.05½	19.00	46.50	130.00
1944	.38½	.12½	.11	.03½	20.50	46.50	142.50
Percentage Increase	41.8	78.6	63.0	55.5	192.8	144.7	119.2

Ave. % Increase

In Sale : In Cost
Price :
59.7 : 152.2

Meat Requirements

Let us consider next the meat production and requirement needs of the country. It was Napoleon Bonaparte, the greatest military genius of his day, who once said that an army travels on its stomach. This is true today, even though modern warfare is much different than it was in Napoleon's time. War is now fought in the air, on the ground, on the sea, and even beneath the sea.

Yes, we are fortunate in having a great meat supply available, but we need every bit of it, for now we have some important new customers. In addition to our civilian needs, we must

feed our armed forces and our fighting Allies. The 1944 total meat production amounted to 28¼ billion pounds, including lard. This represents a considerable increase over the 27,217,000,000 pounds produced in 1943.

Despite the fact that U. S. civilians were allotted only 67 per cent of the total nation's meat supply, due to the enormous production of meats, the annual per capita consumption of this product still amounted to nine pounds more than in any prewar year. With this information, one might wonder, "Why meat rationing?" The answer is simply that (1) there is greater buying power, thus resulting in a greater demand for such a highly palatable and nutritious food as meat, and (2) there is too great demand for the choice cuts.

Allied Food Needs Out of U. S. Supplies

In the following table, only the needs of Great Britain and Russia are included. In addition, there are the needs of China and the liberated areas.

ALLIED FOOD NEEDS OUT OF U. S. SUPPLIED FOR THE YEAR
January 1, 1945—December 31, 1945

	Great Britain and Russia (long tons)
Meat	1,149,197
Grain	1,068,042
Fats and oils	645,447
Milk products	464,107

(Plus certain quantities to other United Nations and liberated areas. During the year July 1, 1943—June 30, 1944, U. S. received 88,500 long tons of meat from Australia and New Zealand in reverse lend lease).

Why do our Allies need food from us? Let us start with England. This small country, about two times the size of the State of New York, supports three times as many people as the Empire State. Thus, it isn't surprising that England has had to depend very substantially upon food imports to feed its 46,000,000 inhabitants. Before the war, England produced only 40 per cent of her food requirements. By plowing up lawns, golf courses and the like, she has increased her production to perhaps two-thirds of her needs. Most of the remaining third continues to come, as formerly, from British Dominions

and South America. Food sent from the United States represents less than 10 per cent of her requirements, but it is, nevertheless, the margin between enough and not enough.

The Russians have fought courageously, but it must be remembered that the Ukraine has now been twice fought over. This area originally produced about 40 per cent of Russia's total food, or enough for fully 50,000,000 people. The loss of the Ukraine is comparable to what we would sustain if we lost the corn belt states of this country. Thus, the Russians have had to import food from us and other of the United Nations in order to keep their armies fed. Even so, it has been said that it is no exaggeration to expect that each night millions of people in Russia go hungry.

For example, the best information available concerning Russia indicates that workers in war plants are allowed upward of 20 ounces of meat per week, whereas non-war workers are limited to a ration of 4 ounces of meat per week. It is also interesting to note that our present 44-ounces weekly meat consumption in the United States is still equal to, or slightly larger than, our average per capita consumption in this country for the prewar years 1935-1939. The point is, however, that with increased incomes, more citizens are attempting to indulge in some of the luxuries of life, and meat is definitely one of these luxuries.

We Aren't So Badly Off

Just because we cannot always get all of the meat which we desire is no particular sign that we are so badly off. This table gives the comparative meat situation of several countries.

SIZE OF WEEKLY MEAT RATION IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

U. S. A.	44	ounces
Great Britain	33	"
Russia	12	"
Germany	12	"
Dutch	10½	"
France	8	"
Belgium	5	"
Italy	4	"

In addition, it might be mentioned that in little Finland each person is allowed to purchase the equivalent of about 5 cents' worth of meat per week. Yes, war has brought terrible hunger to many countries.

At the present time, our Army is consuming at the rate of approximately 340 pounds of meat annually, or nearly

1 pound daily per man. Perhaps this is one of the main reasons why our army is said to be the best fed army in the world.

The Story of a Man's Suit

Assuming that one can even buy a suit, I am sure the price tag is still most baffling—especially in light of the price which the grower receives for an equivalent amount of grease wool. This table tells the story.

One and one-fifth sheep produce	8.68 lbs. grease wool
When scoured, 8.68 lbs. grease wool produces	4.75 lbs. clean wool
When spun, 4.75 lbs. clean wool produces	3¾ yds. of cloth
When tailored, 3¾ yds. of cloth produces	one man's suit
8.68 lbs. grease wool has value of	\$3.50 to \$4.50
The man's suit costs	\$30.00 to \$200.00

Why This Situation

Thus, somewhere in between the \$3.50 to \$4.50 received by the grower for the grease wool and the \$30 to \$200 paid for the tailored suit are the illusive reasons that wool has always proven more remunerative to the handlers than to the producers.

An Asiatic Grain Diet

During the present emergency, some folks have advocated that livestock be largely eliminated and that we go on an Asiatic grain diet. Their slogan has been "Food before Feed." Lest a new crop of such ideas should again spring up, and it is difficult to find some of those former advocates at this time, the fallacy of such reasoning must not be forgotten. This table shows the great amount of feeds unsuited for human consumption which are effectively utilized by livestock.

THOSE WHO ADVANCE THE ELIMINATION OF ANIMALS AND GOING ON AN ASIATIC GRAIN DIET SHOULD REMEMBER:

	% Feed Derived from Forage
Sheep	95
Beef Cattle	80
Dairy Cattle	76
Horses	67
Hogs	5
Poultry	5

(60% of total land area of the U. S. is grazed at least part of year).

Moreover, we must be aware of the fact that approximately two-thirds of the feed used by livestock is not fit for human consumption. In this category are hay, pasture, mill feeds, and other by-products that are converted into

meat, eggs, milk, and wool. It is also to be pointed out that beef cattle and sheep have always existed largely on forage, it being estimated that 80 per cent and 95 per cent respectively of their total feeds are derived from roughages. Then, too, much of this forage is produced on land unsuited for the growth of bread grains or victory gardens. Moreover, in addition to the land itself, labor, tools, storage, processing plants, and transportation facilities may well be limiting factors in any shift

to an Asiatic grain diet. In light of these facts, we must realize that, even in war time, livestock constitutes the chief avenue through which the vast majority of the grains and roughages produced on the 6,000,000 American farms will continue to reach the markets of the world. Thus, the problem calls for wise adjustment rather than radical shifts.

Livestock Breeding Situation In Europe

During World War I, we were told that the United States would be expected to restock Europe. After the close of the conflict, however, it was discovered that livestock numbers were only 5 to 10 per cent below normal. Moreover, there was an even greater stumbling block to possible exportations from this country; namely, the Europeans had no money with which to buy.

The present global conflict appears to differ in that the marching armies of war no longer hold to fortified lines. Rather, they are ravaging some of the most productive areas of Europe. The best estimates concerning the depletion of livestock numbers are shown below.

ESTIMATED DEPLETION OF LIVESTOCK IN EUROPE, EXCLUSIVE OF RUSSIA

	Per cent Decrease
Dairy cattle	15
Work cattle	25
Beef cattle	50
Hogs	25
Sheep	10
Horses	30

(With the loss of the Ukraine, Russia lost the area which produced 40 per cent of her total food, or enough to feed 50 million people).
(Continued on page 35)

Secretary Ickes on Grazing Affairs

1. Objects to Senate Committee Report

Objections were filed by Secretary Ickes on March 31, 1945, with Senator Carl A. Hatch, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to some of the statements made in the second partial report of his committee based on investigations and hearings of the subcommittee headed by Senator McCarran. This report, submitted to Congress on December 19, 1944, was digested briefly in the Wool Grower for January (page 9) under the title, "Mushroom Growth of Grazing Service," and the main points of Secretary Ickes' "dissent from findings" are presented here without comment.

THE Secretary takes up the "implication" in the report that the expansion of the Grazing Service, or its mushroom growth is not warranted and "not in accordance with representations made to the Congress." At the time the Taylor Grazing bills were under consideration in both Houses of Congress, the Secretary states, it was the estimate of the Department of the Interior that the "acreage of vacant, unappropriated, unreserved public domain then contemplated for inclusion in grazing districts . . . could be administered by existing agencies of the Department, together with an additional appropriation of \$150,000 to finance a small coordinating agency."

The testimony covering this point was put into the record of the hearings held by the House Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, February 21, 1943, by Rufus G. Poole, then assistant solicitor for the Interior Department. Mr. Poole said:

" . . . We have made a study of what we thought this measure would involve in the way of expenses to the users of the range. I have discussed it personally with the Secretary and it is his opinion that at the present time, in view of economic conditions, we cannot put a charge on range use which would be burdensome to the livestock industry. We do not, however think it will cost greatly in excess of \$150,000 a year to administer the bill. That would be very nominal if spread over 50 million acres which, we contemplate, would be placed

within grazing districts the first year of the Act's operation."

Then Secretary Ickes calls Senator Hatch's attention to the fact that the \$150,000 was considered with reference to only 50 million acres while the "apparent inference to be drawn from the second partial report of the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys is that the estimate of \$150,000 applied for all time to the full total of 173,000,000 acres then estimated to remain in the vacant, unappropriated and unreserved public domain."

An expense of \$100,000 per annum was added soon after the Act became operative, the Secretary points out, to cover the travel and per diem expenses of members of the advisory boards, and \$250,000 was appropriated by Congress for the fiscal year 1936. At the close of that year the size of the job had also been increased by about 50 per cent or to approximately 76,900,000 acres of land, and at present, the Grazing Service is administering 142,205,002 acres of vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved public land, other public land, and state, county, corporate, and private land administered under agreement or under the Pierce Act. The increases are credited to ranchers wanting grazing districts.

Congress, Mr. Ickes points out, has been fully informed on all these matters through representations made by the Department at hearings when the appropriations were being considered.

In commenting on the responsibilities attaching to the work of the Grazing Service, the Secretary states:

"There is a vast public interest in this land, namely, to preserve the land and its resources from destruction, and to provide for the orderly use, improvement, and development of all the resources, including the wildlife, the soil and the water resources. The Department obviously is charged with the protection of the soil against erosion, and with the protection of streamflow to help prevent floods and reduce the siltation of streams and reservoirs, which supply water for people and lands many of which are far distant from the grazing districts.

"To perform these functions on 142

million acres of public land now in grazing districts, interspersed with almost an equal area of alienated land, is not a small undertaking. Much of this area had been seriously injured by more than 80 years of uncontrolled use. It was largely undeveloped with regard to watering holes, fences, roads, trails, and other facilities essential to its efficient use and protection. At present, these public lands are grazed by approximately 11 million head of livestock, which are owned by some 22,000 ranchmen and farmers. The lands are tributary to nearly all of the important streams of the West that have been developed for irrigation and the watersheds of these streams need to be safeguarded from damage by floods, erosion, and siltation."

To accomplish the purpose of the Act the Department asserts through its Secretary that it is its duty to "establish such an organization as is required to do a reasonably adequate job of administration," and that has been its aim in asking for increased appropriation each year. "While the Department takes no pride," Secretary Ickes declares in his letter to Senator Hatch, "in its earlier estimates of the costs of administration, it would be subject to far more justifiable criticism if it failed to request the funds from year to year that are found necessary to perform a reasonably adequate job of carrying out the purposes of the Taylor Act."

Claiming that the Committee's report is "further confused" in listing expenditures for other than administrative purposes, the Secretary says that:

1. Livestock men receive a direct benefit from the 25 per cent of the money which Congress may appropriate from the receipts under the Act for construction and maintenance of range improvements.

2. While the law provides that 50 per cent of the money received under the Act during any fiscal year shall be returned by the Secretary of the Treasury to the state in which the grazing district or lands producing such money are located, presumably to reimburse the state and counties for taxes, nearly every western state legislature has passed laws that appropriate most or

all of the money "for the benefit of the users of the range lands producing this revenue," such as range improvements and predatory animal control—and none of this money is used for administration but it does place an "additional" responsibility on the Grazing Service from an over-all standpoint.

3. The results of the Civilian Conservation Corps program, the road program, and similar projects are all beneficial to those using the range, but did not add to the administration fund of the Grazing Service, although increasing its responsibility for upkeep, etc.

Under the heading "Alleged Intention to Increase Receipts in Order to Justify Larger Appropriations," the Secretary says:

"It is the duty, of course, of the Department of the Interior to collect fees or other charges as authorized or directed by law. It has never been the policy of the Department, however, necessarily to match the moneys collected through each bureau or agency with the appropriations for that bureau. The receipts of some of the agencies in the Department exceed the appropriations, but this is not so in all cases. That depends upon the purposes and instructions of each particular act. Appropriations for the Grazing Service have greatly exceeded the receipts during the past 10 years, if all appropriations, irrespective of their purpose, are lumped together. These appropriations, including the 50 per cent of receipts paid to states, according to the figures in table 1 of the report have amounted (through the fiscal year 1945) to \$36,949,793.10. The net payments into the Treasury, after deducting the payments to the states and to the Indians, through the fiscal year 1945, will amount to approximately \$3,530,000."

It is claimed that while Department representatives testified in the hearings on the Taylor bills that the fees charged should be limited to a nominal or reasonable figure and that the costs of administration should not exceed the receipts, they limited that opinion by the phrase, "in the early years of administration of the Act." The nominal fees were not intended to be applicable indefinitely, the Secretary declares, and the present fees were clearly intended, when set up in 1936, to be temporary ones. He supports this contention with a statement from a letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, on June 20, 1933, which esti-

mated the then annual value of the available forage crop at 10 million dollars; indicated that such value might be increased 25 to 50 per cent, or a total value of 12 to 15 million dollars; and that if all the suitable public domain were placed in districts, the revenue that might reasonably be expected would vary from a fourth to a twentieth of the forage crop value.

The letter to Senator Hatch contains this definition of a "reasonable" fee:

"A reasonable fee is considered to be one that represents a fair value of the forage obtained by the user. Under the terms of the Act the Department feels that it is incumbent upon it to determine and charge such a fee. Nowhere in the Act is there an expression, or even an implication, that the cost to the government in carrying out the provisions of the Act and the fees to be charged should necessarily bear any relation to each other. It is only fair to expect in the long run, the returns from grazing fees should be sufficient reasonably to offset the costs of administration, protection, conservation, and development that are of a direct benefit to the grazing users. But such a relationship at this time during the initial stages of administration, protection, conservation, and development is unworkable. It is the opinion of the Department that the fees to be charged and the costs of administration, development and improvement should be determined separately on their own merits."

The situation in central and southern Nevada where objection has been raised to the forming of grazing districts is reviewed at some length by Mr. Ickes, and his opinion of how it should be settled concludes his letter to Senator Hatch, as follows:

There are two ways by which the public interest in the public domain lands may be safeguarded under the Taylor Act—by including the lands in grazing districts or by leasing them under section 15 of the Act. Therefore, if it is the consensus of the interested users that the lands in central and southern Nevada are so situated as not to justify inclusion in grazing districts, and if appropriate proceedings under the law lead to a conclusion that these lands should not be placed under grazing district administration, the Department will then consider leasing them under section 15 of the Act.

2. Increased Fees

THE Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, has refused the request, made on February 9, 1945, by Senator Pat McCarran, chairman of the Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, that discussion of grazing fee and other administrative matters relating to Taylor districts be postponed until six months after the end of the war. Written on March 13, 1945, Mr. Ickes' reply offers little of anything in the way of good cheer, except that the chairman of the special subcommittee will be notified by Mr. Ickes before final action is taken.

Senator McCarran's communication of February 9, (March Wool Grower, page 20), it will be recalled, referred to the serious labor plight of the stockmen; also to the difficulty of stockmen in finding gasoline to permit their traveling to attend hearings at this time, especially since he (Mr. Ickes) had indicated to the Senator that the Interior Department could not furnish transportation to members of the Senate Committee from one hearing to another. The attitude of the Secretary of the Interior on these matters is shown in his reply:

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1945

My Dear Senator McCarran:

In answer to your letter of February 9, I believe that at the present time it is only necessary to reiterate that no formal recommendation has been made to me by the Director of Grazing looking to an increase in grazing fees. The Taylor Grazing Act places upon the Department the responsibility to establish a reasonable fee. I therefore feel duty bound to have the Director of Grazing give the question full consideration and at the proper time to submit to me his recommendations on the matter. I have already told the Senate Public Lands Committee I would notify the Chairman before taking final action.

I have never arbitrarily or unnecessarily curtailed the use of gasoline for essential travel, nor do I believe that it is arbitrary to curtail the use of Interior Department automobiles for transportation when the anticipated travel parallels a main line railroad.

So far as the establishment of additional grazing districts is concerned, no recommendation for additional districts have been presented to me for approval. Until this has been done, I do not care to attempt to anticipate what the real needs will be.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd) Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Pat McCarran,
United States Senate.

Meantime, no further announcements have been made of dates for the western hearings, heavy activity in Congress keeping the Senators pretty well tied up. While the House of Rep-

resentatives recessed from March 24 to April 9, the Senate took no time off. Rumors are current that the grazing fee hearings will commence around the first of June.

Spring Forage Lost Through Cheatgrass Fires

By Joseph F. Pechanec and A. C. Hull, Jr., Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah

It is generally recognized that, where livestock depend upon dried cheat and other grasses for fall and winter forage, fires can cause a critical feed shortage. Less well understood, however, is that early spring production of cheatgrass may be greatly reduced by fires occurring the previous year. This, a direct contradiction to the oft-heard statement that "fire does not hurt cheatgrass," is the preliminary conclusion reached from data secured on the Snake River Plains of southern Idaho during 1943 and 1944 by the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Both from controlled experimental plots and accidental burns, observations showed that burning of an area causes a large reduction in the number of cheatgrass plants per unit area the following year and also retards spring growth. At the Dubois Airport in southeastern Idaho certain cheatgrass areas were burned while others were protected, and the forage produced the following spring was harvested systematically and compared. The results showed that the burned areas produced less than one seventh of the herbage at the start of the spring season that the unburned ranges did. Comparisons of forage production of many other areas showed that the unburned areas produced from 10 to 50 times more forage than did the burned ranges.

In addition to thinning the stand, fires retarded early spring growth of cheatgrass and, during the first 20 days of the spring grazing season, cheatgrass plants on the area burned the previous year were found to be only half as tall as on the unburned ranges.

It is this sharp reduction of early veg-

*Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is commonly called broncgrass, Mormon oats, junegrass, or downy chess in other localities.

etation that is most critical for the sheep operator. This is the season that ewes and lambs are coming out of the feed lots and lambing sheds, and rapidity of lamb growth is dependent upon ample forage for the ewe. Since the supply of green grass at this time is normally low, any reduction during these first three or four weeks of the spring grazing season certainly will affect adversely the sheep enterprise.

Cheatgrass production on the burned ranges in some cases caught up with that on the unburned ranges as the spring season advanced but, because of the lateness of the season, not in time to be wholly available for grazing.

Plants on the burned areas produced 6 or 8 stalks per plant, while those on the unburned areas remained largely single-stemmed. Height growth on the thin stands speeded up and before the spring season was over plants here were taller than those on the areas that were not burned.

Recovery by the end of the first year is not, however, always the case. Severe reductions in numbers of plants, or heavy grazing of unburned areas may prolong the period of recovery beyond one year. Burns may easily be overgrazed in the late spring because plants on the burn remain green, succulent, and more palatable several days longer. Sheep, therefore, are likely to congregate on these burned areas.

The amount that fires reduce numbers of plants and total forage production is influenced by the time of year the fires occur. The earlier in the summer the cheatgrass fire, the more serious the thinning. These observations were borne out by a planned study southeast of Boise during 1943 and 1944. Here burns made in June or July reduced plant numbers to 14 and 11 per square foot as compared to 41, 45, and 124 plants, respectively, on burns made during August, October, and November.

Precipitation during the fall after burning and heat of fire may also alter the effect on cheatgrass. Where the cheatgrass fire is exceptionally hot, the thinning of cheatgrass the next year is more marked. On the other hand, where abundant fall rains come after fires, thinning of cheatgrass is much reduced. Judging from weather records, however, this lessening of the effect of cheatgrass fires by fall rains is likely to be infrequent because the years in which there are heavy fall rains are relatively few.

Not nearly so readily apparent as reduction of forage production but fully as important to the range sheepman is the damage cheatgrass fires may do the soil. Exposure of the soil may permit some of the fertile topsoil to wash or blow away. Furthermore, no ungrazed forage is left to decay and help maintain soil fertility. Even the ash, which contains valuable minerals, is likely to be carried away by wind. These losses, especially if cheatgrass fires occur repeatedly, are likely to result in a permanent reduction of forage.

These conclusions do not contradict the idea that uncontrolled fire promotes the replacement of perennial grasses by cheatgrass. A recent study of sagebrush burning found that fire reduces the vigor of perennials the following year (see June and July 1944 issues of the National Wool Grower). This reduction in vigor of perennial forage plants is exceedingly severe when the fire occurs as early as cheat grass will burn. Early grazing, often severe, the year following burning damages or even kills out the perennials and permits their replacement by cheatgrass. In planned burning for sagebrush removal the reduction in vigor of perennials is recognized and taken care of by protecting the range from grazing during the first year after burning.

Inasmuch as the majority of sheep on intermountain ranges depend to a large extent on cheatgrass for early spring forage, most sheepmen have a direct economic interest in the cheatgrass fire problem. It is quite evident from preliminary tests and observations that not only is early spring forage sharply reduced by fires but, moreover, recurrent fires damage the soil and reduce the future forage production of the range. Consequently, it should be a part of every operator's management plan to help prevent cheatgrass fires.

South Dakota's Sheep Industry

This is the third in the series of articles on the sheep business in the thirteen western states having associations affiliated with the National Wool Growers Association. Material for the story came from the Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association and the very interesting pictures are by Otto J. Wolff, prominent sheepman of Rapid City, South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA is the baby member of the National Wool Growers Association, and on that account it may be well to take a look at the development of the sheep industry within that state.

South Dakota is divided into eastern and western sections by the Missouri River, which flows generally north and south almost through the center. The northwestern part of the state is strictly range country, and while this is generally true of the rest of the western section, there is some dry farming there. Nearly every farm west of the river carries on a livestock operation in connection with the farming.

East of the river, until the terrific drought years in the early 1930's, farming, dairying and hog raising predominated. Since then, sheep numbers have greatly increased until, at the present time, there are about as many sheep east of the river, in small farm flocks, as there are on the range lands west of it.

It was in the early eighties that the first sheep were trailed in from Oregon to the range section of South Dakota north of the Black Hills, and at about the same time a few bands arrived in the area southeast of the Black Hills. These ranges however were used pretty much by cattle outfits, until the country was opened up for homesteading.

Between 1908 and 1911 there was a great influx of homesteaders, seeking the 160 acres of free land that Washington bureaucrats promised would make them independent for life. Then, in 1911, came the terrible drought that forced many a settler to abandon his claim. Shortly after this the 320-Acre Homestead Act was passed, and the re-

maining settlers scrambled after an additional quarter section of "free land," and a few years later, after it was definitely determined that a family could not make a living on a half section of land, new legislation entitling the citizens to a full section of South Dakota land was passed.

Experiments by trial and error and the accumulation of taxes, during the passing of time, forced the abandonment of great areas of land that had been homesteaded. A few of the settlers became so poor they couldn't move out, and most of the present-day ranchers in the western part of the state got started in the sheep business in this manner.

Many of the counties west of the river came into possession of as much as half a million acres of land by reason of accumulated taxes. In recent years a great deal of this land has gone back into private ownership at much less money than the counties were carrying it for on their books. The size of the individual land holdings is increasing, and once again this part of South Dakota is getting back into the livestock business on a sound basis.

It seems to take about eight acres of western South Dakota range land to support a ewe for a year, and where ranchers are following this practice they get along in pretty good shape one year with another. Good years the range will probably handle a few more sheep; in dry years—and we have more than our share—it takes more range. If sheep numbers are kept at about this ratio, the operations are reasonably satisfactory.

There are, according to the latest government figures, 1,598,000 stock sheep in South Dakota, which makes it eighth in state sheep populations. More sheep are found in the northwestern part of the state than in any other area, and the industry centers around Belle Fourche and Newell where nearly ten million pounds of wool are marketed annually. Rapid City, Faith, Isabel, Dupree, Philip, Kadoka, and Murdo also market large quantities of wool.

The Hafner warehouses at Newell

are among the largest and most modern in the West. In 1943 Max Schuft built a new warehouse in Belle Fourche, which also has the latest facilities. Both of these concerns have been designated as primary handlers of wool under the Commodity Credit Corporation set-up, and appraisals and settlements have been prompt and satisfactory. This is an innovation in this area, as until 1943 most of South Dakota's wools were sold to Boston dealers, and while these old, reliable firms still take a large volume of South Dakota wools, growers now have a choice as to where they may market their wools.

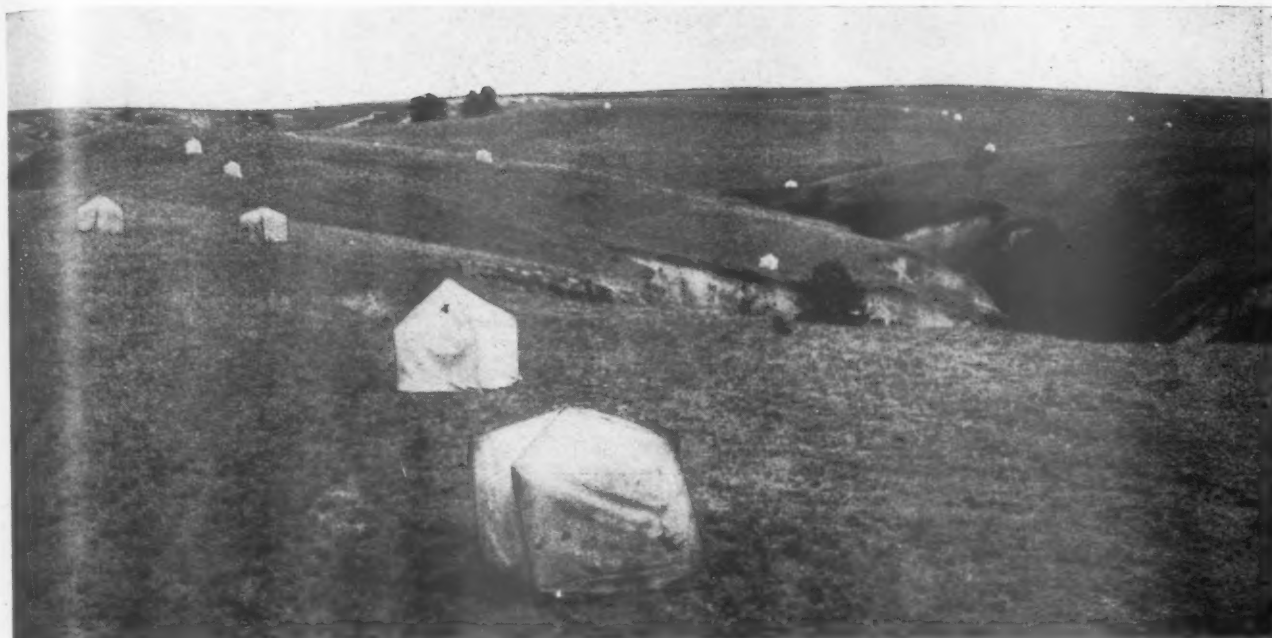
In the Belle Fourche-Newell area the wools are predominately high half blood with a considerable tonnage of fine and three-eighths, and very little quarter

SOUTH DAKOTA FIRST IN 1945

The Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association has beaten all other organizations affiliated with the National Wool Growers Association in the payment of a full quota for 1945. A check for \$1,849.00, the total amount due for the current year, was sent in by Secretary H. J. Devereaux on March 19.

While affiliated with the National Association since 1939 and always one of its most loyal supporters, the South Dakota group has never been in a financial position that permitted its payment of a full quota until this year. It's doubly nice that it could be first in paying it.

Other state associations like those in Oregon and Idaho that usually get their full quota payments in early in the year are being held up this year through the operation of the new membership agreement plan, under which membership dues will not be coming in until after the wool sales accounts are rendered to the growers who have signed the pledge card. A partial payment of \$1,000, however, has already been received from the Idaho Association.



Spring range scene in South Dakota. Individual lambing tents or tepees protect the ewes and their offspring from bad weather and predators.

blood. A half-blood type sheep seems to be a little better producer in this section than the strictly fine-wool sheep. The lambs develop better and the feeders apparently like this type of lamb better.

The dates for lambing vary according to the individual operator. In the farming and irrigated districts, many sheepmen lamb early, using the regular methods of shed lambing. Range lambing, however, generally begins the latter part of April and continues into May. While April lambing requires more feed, most sheepmen who lamb in that month are willing to pay the additional expense under the assumption that the early lambs are thrifty, more mature, and in most cases heavier and free from parasites. These April lambs will weigh around 50 pounds by the middle of June.

Lambing tepees have been in extensive use for a long time, likewise lamb blankets. Individual lambing tents allow easier handling of the drop band. Lambs can be dropped in a very small area, and when turned loose the next day, they can be inspected and blanketed. Twin lambs can be hauled away and placed under more favorable conditions and given extra care. These tepees or individual lambing tents, of course, give protection from bad weather and predators and, if the ewes are in good condition, almost do away with

the bum lamb entirely. The tents are rarely left on the ewe and lamb over twelve hours.

Lambs are usually blanketed and left in tents a while before turning them loose, to allow the ewes, especially the young ewes, to become accustomed to the blanket. Adjustable lamb blankets are preferable, as lambs vary quite a little in size. Then, too, in case of very bad weather, the blankets can be let out and left on longer. As the blankets come in different colors, twins or different small bands may be distinguished by their use.

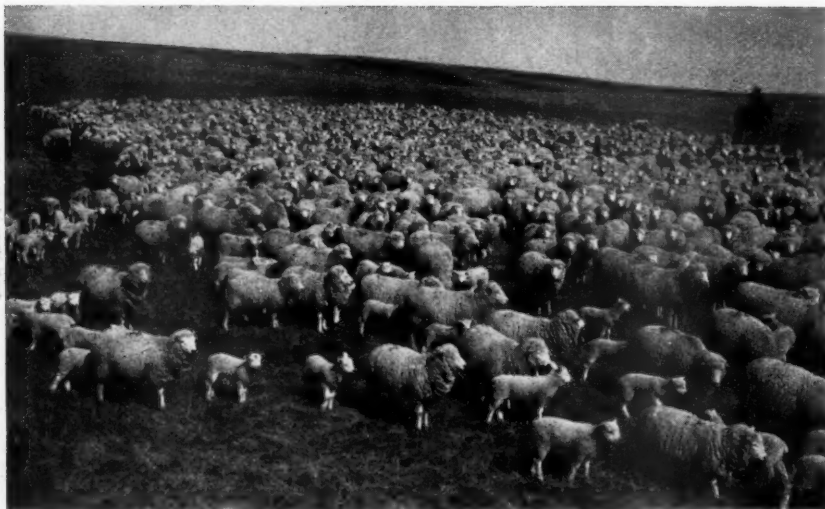
A few bands of sheep are summered in the Black Hills, and many times lambs from these bands are shipped out as killers. Usually the prairie lambs are sold as feeders, and go to the irrigated section of the Belle Fourche Valley, the corn producing section of South Dakota, along the Sioux River



The tepee is placed over the ewe and her lamb

from Brookings south, and along the Missouri River from Yankton east. Iowa and Minnesota take a good many South Dakota lambs into their feed lots, and some years Nebraska and Ohio feeders come here for their lambs.

East of the river the lambs from the farm flocks are usually brought to mar-



April lambs on a South Dakota range in June. Weight 50 pounds

ket weight by turning them into the stubble fields after the harvest or to be fed in a dry lot. Here most of the lambs are sired by black-faced rams, and the ewes mostly come from the range section of the state and are white-faced.

Coyotes are the greatest scourge of the sheepman west of the river, and at the last session of the state legislature two years ago a law was passed assessing all the sheepmen in this area at the rate of three cents per head of sheep per year, the money to go to the county where it was raised to pay bounties on coyotes at the rate of \$10 per head on adults and \$3 per head on pups. Much of the hunting is done with small airplanes, which has proved very successful, except in very broken country. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also doing excellent work, though they seem unable to get as many competent hunters as the work requires.

Sheepmen are hopeful that, after the war when ammunition is plentiful, sportsmen will hunt the coyote enthusiastically in small planes, and eventually that menace may be eradicated. As the animals become fewer in number, the thought is to increase the bounty to a point where it will be a real inducement for the sportsman with a plane to hunt them.

Parasites have also become a problem in seasons of heavy forage production, and steps are being taken to eradicate them, with very good results generally where the growers are willing to stand the additional expense.

Water problems on the range have

been solved by a dam-building program, most of the area having the type of soil that can be depended upon to impound water. Good roads are still needed and will have to be built to allow efficient handling of sheep.

At present help is a big problem and feed costs are extremely high. These, with the various difficulties that have resulted from the war, have forced the liquidation of a number of sheep outfits in South Dakota, as costs have overtaken income. Most of the ranchers have taken on a few cattle but are just hoping and waiting for the day when costs and conditions will permit them again to stock their ranges with sheep.

A Petition

In keeping with the policy of advising growers of activities and thoughts being expressed by certain members, the following summary of a petition being circulated by M. A. Smith of Colorado and Utah is given here. This petition is addressed to the Administrators of the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration and to the Director of Economic Stabilization.

It is stated in the petition that there is now in effect a provision for a subsidy in which a payment of 95 cents per hundredweight for live sheep and lambs is paid to the packer to compensate for the rollback of prices effective as of June, 1943, for the benefit of the consumer. It further states that the

subsidy regulation provides that this be paid, and was paid to packers with the mandate that such subsidy would be passed on to the producer. It is the contention of the petitioners that sheep and lamb producers who market from July through to December have not enjoyed or received any part of the benefit accruing to the packer as a result of the 95 cents per hundredweight subsidy payment.

It is further contended that the producers have suffered a material loss by reason of the present ceiling prices fixed by the government, and that they have been compelled to bear the burden of these low ceiling prices.

The petition declares that statements have been made by the packers which have indicated that they are desirous that future subsidy payments be made to the livestock producers, and that by its payment to producers, packers will be in a better position to adjust their buying of livestock within the limitations of the present, established ceiling prices.

It is also contended by Mr. Smith that the payment of this subsidy to the producer would place him in a position to which he is really entitled to make bargains with the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration.

It is also stated that the livestock producers were never recognized or considered in fixing and maintaining the valuations of their commodities. It is the belief of the petitioners that they are entitled "under constitutional guarantees and the Bill of Rights to be heard when the ceiling prices and the values of our property are to be set up under the Emergency Price Control Act."

In conclusion, they petition that arrangements be made for the payment of subsidies direct to the producers and to the feeders of lambs and sheep.

7TH WAR LOAN MAY 14—JUNE 30

Four reasons for heavy purchases:

1. There will be but two War Loans this year instead of three.
2. The financial demands of our military services will not decrease this year.
3. The costs of the Pacific war will mount after German defeat.
4. We must maintain a stabilized economy.

Grading Lamb and Mutton

By Fred J. Beard, Chief
Market News and Grading Division
Livestock and Meats Branch
War Food Administration

This address by Mr. Beard was one of the highlights of the annual meeting of the National Wool Growers Association in Fort Worth, Texas, January 29-31, this year. While through the use of a couple of racks of lamb and mutton carcasses on the convention platform Mr. Beard was able to explain graphically the factors that determine the grade and class of a carcass, his statements alone are so clear and concise that they make very interesting and enlightening reading.

CLASSIFYING and grading consist of sorting a commodity into lots or groups which have similar characteristics and which show minimum variation in the essential factors that determine merit or excellence. I have often defined a market class, when applied to livestock, as a group of individuals, all of which have the same commercial use. The degree to which individuals fulfill this use constitutes the grade.

Grade, therefore, is a term that denotes specific qualifications, the interpretation of which is mutually understood by both buyers and sellers. To be of value from a practical standpoint any scheme of classifying and grading should be applicable on a nation-wide scale and must fit the needs of the interests which it is designed to serve.

Specifications for class and grade are based on fundamental factors inherent in the animal or in the carcass and not on factors subject to change on account of trade preference, fluctuations in supply and demand or price levels, seasonal conditions or other unstable factors.

The present definitions and descriptions of grades of meat represent the combined efforts of all the different interests in the lamb and sheep industry, including wholesaler and retail meat dealers throughout the United States. Hence, the standards for grade are not



Grades of lamb (from left to right): "Prime," a classification not in use under the mandatory grading regulations—all such carcasses being included in the "Choice" grade, a sample of which hangs next; then "Good," "Commercial," and "Utility."

a set of rules and regulations hastily concocted but the outcome of earnest deliberations by the industry and the Department of Agriculture in an effort to correct the gross inequities that existed in the grading of lamb and mutton.

Following a number of conferences held by government representatives and the industry, tentative grades for dressed lamb, yearling mutton, and mutton carcasses were issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in November, 1925, and distributed throughout the trade to retailers, wholesalers, packers, and others interested. Late in 1926 and early in 1927 public hearings were held in 12 large marketing centers. Invitations to these hearings were sent to producers, slaughterers, wholesale and retail meat dealers, agricultural-college workers, and others interested in the livestock and meat industries. The sentiment developed in these hearings was overwhelmingly in favor of the standardized grade as presented. A few criticisms and suggestions brought out in the hearings were

taken into consideration in a review of the standards which was published in March, 1927, as a part of Department Bulletin No. 1470 entitled "Market Classes and Grades of Dressed Lamb and Mutton." Revisions have been made from time to time, most of which have been prompted by suggestions submitted by different groups of the industry.

Therefore, the standards were in fact formulated by the industry, all phases cooperating. The Secretary of Agriculture by an Act of Congress is authorized to prescribe and to promulgate the standards for agricultural products, including meats, as the Official United States Standards and to conduct grading in accordance with these standards.

With standards for meat grades established, it is the duty of the grader to apply the standards in the grading of meat. As an experienced meat man, he is instructed in the proper interpretation of the specifications of the standards before being assigned to the task of grading meat.

The Standards Should Be Specified

The class and grade given a carcass should be supported by the specification. The placing of a carcass in a particular class and grade is made for a definite reason which can be explained and demonstrated to any one familiar with the inherent characteristics of the product. It should be emphasized that individual preference or personal prejudice can have no place in a standard system of grading.

Assuming that the grading of livestock and meats can be standardized, the question arises as to what factors shall be used as a basis for determining class and grade. Of the many factors that conceivably could be included in a system of grading, three were selected as conveying the most important information. They are *conformation*, *quality*, and *finish*. A system of grading based on these inherent characteristics in the carcass, has proved to be a very satisfactory method by which consistency and uniformity may be applied with any degree of universality. Classifying and grading carcasses in accordance with specifications drawn in terms of these three fundamental considerations have contributed much to alleviate the variation in the grading of lamb and mutton in the large market centers.

Application of Federal Grade Standards

The carcasses of slaughter sheep are placed into three principal groups based on age of the animals. These are: *lamb* from sheep approximately one year or less in age; *yearling* from animals two years or less; and *mutton* from sheep two years and over in age.

Each of the age classes is further divided into groups known as grades. The number of the grades is dependent upon the extreme range in degree of usefulness of the class. Lambs and yearlings each have six grades—Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, and Cull. For the duration of the emergency, all carcasses eligible for Prime grade are being stamped Choice pursuant to MPR 239 of O.P.A. The specifications for the average of each grade are prescribed. Therefore, a lamb or a yearling carcass of any kind will fall within the specifications of one of the six categories. Carcasses that are excellent in conformation, finish, and quality are graded Prime, and those that are

markedly deficient in all of these essential factors fall into Cull grade. Between these two extremes are aligned the myriad of carcasses with their complex differences.

Grading can be illustrated by considering that the full range of the class has linear dimensions. Since there are six grades, we can assume, for illustration, the span of the class in quality of lamb meat to be six inches or one inch for each grade. As the scale of excellence decreases from the highest to the lowest grade, carcass characteristics embodying one or all three of the basic factors indicate the degree to which the quality has deteriorated. A certain specified degree of imperfection is allowed in every grade and the specifications in the standard provide for the spread within the grade. However, the change in carcass characteristics is so imperceptible as to manifest no definite line of demarcation between the grades. As carcasses deviate away from the ideal representative of the grade they eventually become disqualified for the grade. A precise set of conditions which determine the limits of the spread for a given grade is not definitely stated in the specifications. The determination is made by the grader. Therefore, the grader must be well trained through years of experience and must have developed a clear concept of the line of demarcation between the grades as well as between the classes.

It is not difficult to visualize the serious inconsistency that would be created if, for example, one grader was overgrading Good lambs by one-eighth grade and his coworker was undergrading by the same degree of error. Therefore, to maintain uniformity in the grading service, a corps of supervisors, highly respected in the industry for their clear understanding and consistent interpretation of the grade standards, travel from market to market. It is their duty to review the work of the graders and to instruct a grader whenever necessary. In this connection, the grader welcomes an opportunity to have his work reviewed and criticized. He fully appreciates the fact that grading improperly done is a discredit to himself and to the entire service. The point we wish to make clear is that it is considered just as much an error to be too lenient as too strict in the interpretation of the grades.

One of the very pressing questions

that comes up most forcefully every spring is how to identify a yearling carcass. Growers know with a fair degree of precision when a lamb becomes a yearling and when a yearling becomes a sheep. In the absence of any accurate data as to time of yearling, the animal is mouthed to determine its age. Although the mouth may not portray the exact age, we will all agree, I believe, that dentition denotes the practical age of sheep. There are other features familiar to growers that are supporting evidence as to the age of the animal.

Unfortunately carcasses do not possess characteristics that are so readily accepted by the industry as indicative of the age. The differences in carcasses brought on by age are the result of changes that occur in the shape of the carcass, and in the color and consistency of the flesh and the bones. As the animals approach the time of transition in age it becomes exceedingly difficult to determine the proper age group to which the carcass belongs because of the gradual blending of the characteristics associated with age.

The color and degree of hardness of bone are usually reliable indications of the age in all cases. Redness in bones indicates youth and whiteness in bones indicates age. Hardness of the bones is determined by observing the ribs in the chest cavity and the bones of the shanks and break joint. Other considerations in determining the age are the shape of the carcass and the color of the flesh. None of these are very dependable indices of age when taken alone but when all are considered together they furnish a most dependable basis for classifying the carcasses as lamb, yearling, or mutton.

Lamb is a term applied to carcasses derived from sheep approximately one year or less in age. As a group, lamb carcasses have very red, soft bones, light-colored flesh, and a fat characterized by a slightly pink tint and the lack of brittleness.

Yearling carcasses are from sheep ranging in age from twelve to approximately twenty months. Such carcasses, grade for grade, are distinguished from lamb carcasses by harder and whiter bones, darker flesh, firmer and usually thicker exterior fat covering. Other distinguishing features are the longer legs, flatter rump, the wider and more irregular shaped barrel.

Much emphasis is attached to the

break joint in determining the age classification. The appearance of the break joint varies from a porous, symmetrical, rigid surface as observed in young lambs to a rough, irregular and jagged surface, suggestive of a partially fractured bone. Obviously the latter would be indicative of advanced yearlings. In considering break joints in connection with age the grader never ignores the possible influence of environmental conditions on bone structure and maturity.

The difference between slaughterers and graders in the interpretation and application of the standard specifications of lambs and yearlings became a source of extended controversy. To alleviate this situation we entered into an agreement with the packers whereby they were given the option of mouthing all the lambs and yearlings on the killing floor or of having the carcasses classified on the basis of physical characteristics.

If a packer elects to mouth his drove of sheep he certifies for age, class, and the mouthing operation, usually performed by a packer representative and the result is spot checked by the federal meat grader. All carcasses so mouthed are classified on the basis of age group indicated by the teeth and graded within such classification, with the proviso that no spool-jointed carcass will be classified as a lamb. This understanding has been in effect about two years and the procedure seems, on the whole, to be fairly satisfactory to those packers who have adopted the method. It definitely specifies the classification so that the grower is in position to know, in advance of shipment, the market classification of his sheep.

After the age groups are established, the carcasses within each group are further sorted according to their fitness for a specific purpose. In making these determinations, finish and quality are, as I have said, the fundamental factors. The contributions of each of these factors in determining a grade are not given a definite proportionate value. Each grade has a tolerance for variation in each of the factors and the extent of tolerance varies between grades. To cite an example, there is much greater variation among lamb carcasses grading U. S. Commercial than among those grading U. S. Choice. Likewise, specifications for yearling provide slightly greater variability

(Continued on page 40)

Cutting Lamb Chops

THE method for cutting lamb chops as developed for the armed forces by the meat merchandising specialists of the National Livestock and Meat Board has now been generally adopted by the mess personnel of the Army and Navy. This method, which has been found to be equally practical for both machine and hand cutting, can be used to advantage in central meat cutting plants as well as in large or small mess halls.

The average lamb carcass furnishes

75 to 80 chops, each large enough for one serving. The remainder of the carcass not used for chops can be ground and used for lamb patties to serve with the chops, or may be used as lamb curry and lamb loaf for later meals.

The Board reports that up to the close of 1944, its specialists had conducted 4,004 lamb lecture-demonstrations at 382 Army posts and Naval stations which were attended by more than 318,000 officers and men.



In the above illustration, Don Tyler of the meat merchandising staff of the National Live Stock and Meat Board is showing Capt. George Ott and Lt. Commander Phillip B. Staff, commissary officers of the Naval Aviation Station at San Diego, a display of lamb chops prepared according to the cutting methods recommended by the Board. At the extreme left of the picture are boneless lamb rolls which will be used for roasts.



In this illustration, enlisted men at a North Carolina Army Air Base are using an electric saw to break down a lamb carcass, preparatory to cutting the legs, loin, rack and shoulder into lamb chops. Supervising the operation at the extreme right are A. R. Ring of the National Live Stock and Meat Board's meat merchandising staff, and Major L. Hunt, Post Food Service Supervisor.

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M-388 Opposed

BRANDED quite generally as complete regimentation of the textile industry, W.P.B.'s M-388 and its companion orders, M-388 A, B, and C—the last referring to wool—will start going into effect on April 15, 1945, and will be followed by an O.P.A. order on prices (M.A.P.). Officials of both these agencies, however, are now reconsidering the orders on the basis of amendments recommended by various branches of the textile industry in the hearings conducted by the Congressional committee headed by Representative Howard Smith of Virginia. It is expected that the orders will be modified sufficiently to make them more acceptable to the industry, or hearings will be resumed by the Smith Committee. Starting on March 5, they occupied three weeks before recessing.

While the need for more civilian clothing is recognized by everyone, it was brought out in the hearings that a lot of the people do not want inferior clothes, to the production of which manufacturers will be restricted under M-388, and the testimony was to the effect that the method used in M-388 for expanding the production of lower-priced clothing is absolutely wrong.

"The order," writes F. E. Ackerman, executive director of the American Wool Council, "is without termination date and regiments the entire American public by requiring them by law to wear the limited types and kinds of garments permitted them in a limited number of controlled styles and fabrics to be sold at maximum wholesale and retail prices which are so low that only inferior garments of shoddy fabrics and poor tailoring can be made. These are not my opinions; they are the sum total of the testimony of representatives of both industry and labor who appeared before the Smith Committee."

Mr. Ackerman further explains the order:

Under this order, 80 per cent of the women's coats, suits, skirts and dress industries in all price ranges have been wiped out entirely. Manufacturers are only permitted

to produce 20 per cent of the quantity of these goods that were produced in 1943 and this production must be within maximum price ranges and in stipulated fabrics of a very simple and regimented quality. Under this rule high-grade plants are practically legislated out of business because they simply have not the experience in making the low-class fabric required.

The price range for both woolen and worsted textiles and garments is to be rolled back to the last half of 1942 and the first half of 1943. This was the period when the use of wool for civilian purposes was limited and adulteration of woolen goods reached a new high. By rolling back prices to this point, W.P.B. and O.P.A. will force wool textile manufacturers to make inferior fabrics, particularly since there have been numerous increases in manufacturing costs since that time. These include both labor and raw materials.

It is illegal under this order to manufacture men's overcoats, men's slacks, men's and women's sportswear, men's neckwear, mufflers, bathrobes and in fact any other article using wool which is not on the permitted list. The sole purpose to be achieved

is to channel goods into lower-priced merchandise of which there is said to be a shortage. No single official of the W.P.B. or the O.P.A. has been willing or able to tell the Smith Committee or anyone else the amount of this shortage either in terms of percentages in relation to supply and demand or in units of garments.

In addition to Mr. Ackerman's testimony before the committee, J. B. Wilson, chairman of the National Wool Growers Association's legislative committee, explained the producers' interest in the order as it would cause deterioration in fabrics through substitution. He also called the committee's attention to the injury that had been done to the wool growing industry under wartime regulations as evidenced by the heavy reduction in flock numbers and the cost of production study by the United States Tariff Commission.

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Wool In Review

Activity

Primary handlers in the West have been particularly active in securing consignment contracts from growers. Reports around the country indicate that by far the largest percentage of growers have designated the handler of their wools, many having accepted advances on their clips.

Reasons advanced for this early sign-up are that the grower needs the money, handlers anticipate the reduced shorn wool production and are anxious to handle up to capacity, many handlers have disposed of their 1943 and 1944 wools, and the fact that the outlook for the movement of domestic wools is good for the next six months.

Handlers with supplies of fine half blood and original-bag wools have had an active demand recently, according to the Commercial Bulletin; three-eighths blood is suitable for the needs except that the price retards its use.

Pulled domestic wools, 50's to 56's, grade, are active and holders of scoured, pulled wools are anticipating disposition occasioned by U.N.R.R.A. demands.

Tariff Talk

Government marketing reports from Boston on March 30 indicate little activity recently occasioned, according to the report, by the concern over the proposed tariff reduction legislation.

This being the case, the Commodity Credit Corporation wool purchase program is certainly a life saver to the producer. It is difficult to understand this concern, because the proposed Doughton Bill for the renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, as far as the domestic wool is concerned, does not change the picture on wools 44's and above from the duty that existed in 1934 when trade agreements of this nature were first permitted.

Tariff talk of this nature in normal times would certainly have had a bearish effect on the producers' market even though the effect was not immediate. It is doubtful if the discussions now will have any material effect on the present hand-to-mouth buying.

The United Kingdom's announcement of higher prices for livestock gave rise to expectations that increases in British wool prices might follow according to the same government report.

Licenses were issued to import wool from Argentina for the second quarter. This amounts to a total of 22 million pounds. Importers will probably ship scoured wools in order to get as much clean wool in as possible. It is reported that prices are from three to five cents higher now than when licenses were issued for the first quarter.

Consumption

Military requirements for the first two quarters and, more recently, for the third quarter dominate the market. According to the Commercial Bulletin much larger requirements in woollens are indicated for the third quarter than in the second quarter. The need lies largely for meltons, blankets, and napped cloth. It is also anticipated that goods ordered for second-quarter delivery will not be completed, and a considerable carryover into the third quarter is expected.

The government reports that between 200 and 270 million grease pounds of wool are needed to complete Army orders, for January through June, of 30 million yards of 18-ounce serge, 10.5 million yards of 10½-ounce shirting, 8.5 million yards of 32-ounce melton, 16.2 million yards of 21-ounce blanket cloth, and 7.7 million blankets.

The consumption of apparel wool in 1944 was 1,008,800,000 pounds, of which 31.5 per cent was of domestic wool compared with 40 per cent domestic in 1943, and 50 per cent domestic in 1942.

Stocks on Hand

Commercial stocks of apparel and carpet wool owned or held on consignment in the United States, December 30, 1944, amounted to 687,576,000 pounds (grease basis). One hundred million pounds or 15 per cent of this was wool 44's and below. Of this total amount, 59 per cent or 406,252,000 pounds was domestic. The total above did not include foreign wools afloat. On

the date of this report (12-30-44), there was 12 million pounds less in commercial stocks than on September 30, 1944.

The wools owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation are included in these stocks. On February 24, 1945, the C.C.C. reported stocks on hand to be 297,869,555 pounds, or 48.5 per cent of 1943 and 1944 purchases. Their report indicates that 49.6 per cent of the shorn wool has been sold and 62.9 per cent of the purchased pulled wool has left their hands.

Of the shorn grease wools of the worsted type, quarterblood wools have sold the best—91.5 per cent; 3/8 blood—63.8 per cent; 1/2 blood—52.2 per cent; and in the case of fine and fine mediums, 40.4 per cent of both the 1943 and 1944 purchases have been sold.

In addition to the above stocks, the Defense Supplies Corporation reports 69,402,067 pounds of foreign wool remaining unsold on March 26. A total of 4 million pounds of this undesirable British wool was sold over a three-week period. The domestic industry would be better off if this were shipped out of the country as soon as possible.

Early Appraisals

It is reported that Arizona and Idaho wools have been arriving in the Boston market for appraisal. A report on the first line of graded Idaho 1945 wools shows the following: fine average staple, \$1.17 clean, 66 per cent shrinkage, 39.18 cents grease basis; fine and medium staple, \$1.18, 62 per cent shrinkage, 44.84 cents in the grease; three-eighths staple, \$1.07 clean, 66 per cent shrinkage, 47.08 cents; quarterblood staple, 98 cents clean, 51 per cent shrinkage, 48.02 cents; low quarterblood, 93 cents clean, 48 per cent shrinkage, 48.36 cents in the grease, all Boston prices.

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The War Production Board program for the control of civilian goods production has had little change in status as of this date (March 31, 1945). The amendments which were to be announced before this time were further delayed.

J.M.J.

Our Bill of Rights

By S. W. McClure

NOT long since, an Eastern paper asked the voters of a certain district if they knew what was meant by the Bill of Rights. Only 6 per cent answered, "Yes." This failure to recognize our charter of individual liberty caused a part of our papers to direct an attack on our school system for its failure to teach American history. I think the charge is well founded, as I doubt if many more than 6 per cent of our teachers know anything about the Bill of Rights. Our schools nowadays are mostly concerned in teaching some new social theory rather than the principles that have endured in our government for some 155 years.

However, since a large part of the world now is engaged in a titanic struggle for liberty, let us examine what it is that enables the United States to lead the procession in that direction.

This country has or had four great charters of human right: First the Declaration of Independence written in 1776; next the Constitution adopted in 1789, then the Bill of Rights adopted in 1792, and lastly the Atlantic Charter issued in 1942, "somewhere on the Atlantic."

Of the latter document, however, we are now informed there isn't a signed copy. Such documents are ordinarily deposited in the Library of Congress but Senator Chandler, after a diligent search, declared that immortal document was not in the library and never had been. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill drew up the Atlantic Charter and gave it to the world, but it appears that there never had been any signed or official copy of the Atlantic Charter, that it was only a "few fragmentary notes" on a sheet of paper.

But it was not so with our Bill of Rights. The first Congress of the United States ordered that 14 copies of that document be "enrolled on parchment" and today, 154 years later, ten of these copies are still in existence. Four seem to have been lost, but diligent search is being made for them.

When our Constitution was being written, the Fathers could not agree on the clauses dealing with human rights, so finally it was decided that, when each state adopted the Constitution or sometime later, it should frame such

amendments covering the "inalienable" rights of man as the people of each state thought to be most appropriate. The Constitution had provided the manner in which amendments could be made.

The first Congress of the United States met in New York City on March 4, 1789, and at that meeting adopted the Constitution which set up our government, it having already been adopted by the states. Washington, the new President, was supposed to be on hand about March 4 to be sworn in as President, but, mind you, this was back in the "horse-and-buggy" days and roads were bad and one thing and another delayed him so that he did not arrive in New York until late in April and was sworn in as President on April 30, 1789.

In his first address to the Congress, Washington urged that the Constitution be amended to include what is now known as the Bill of Rights. Five days later Madison, then a member of the House of Representatives, gave notice that he would introduce "Certain Amendments" to the Constitution. After long debate the Congress passed and submitted 10 amendments to the 13 states and Vermont which, when adopted, became known as the "Bill of Rights," and by common consent have since been regarded as a part of our original Constitution. The approval of 11 states was required for the adoption of the Bill of Rights and that number was obtained on December 15, 1791.

The Declaration of Independence in 1776 had stated that man possessed certain "inalienable rights among which were 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'" These were rights that were God-given and inherent in the individual and not to be taken away by any government. Ours was the first government founded that made the individual supreme and the government the slave of his desires. A remarkable thing about our Constitution is that it devotes almost as much space telling Congress what it cannot do as to outlining what it must do. Its restrictive powers also extended to the states. Previous governments had been founded on the Divine Right of Kings; this one was founded on the new and strange doctrine that the people themselves were the rulers. Now the Bill of

Rights in turn said to the people, "Even if you are in the majority, there are certain rights that you cannot impose on the individual." The Bill of Rights follows:

I

Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press; Right of Assembly and Petition

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

II

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

III

Quartering of Soldiers

No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

IV

Regulation of Right of Search and Seizure

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

V

Protection for Persons and Their Property

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger, nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

VI

Rights of Persons Accused of Crime

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

VII

Right of Trial by Jury in Suits at Common Law

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States.

(Continued on page 40)

Lamb Market Reviews and Trading Activities

UNLIKE the old weather tradition, the March sheep and lamb market "came in like a lion" and "went out like a lion." At least that's the indication as we go to press (March 29). Most markets were active during the entire month and, at several points, prices climbed to the highest levels in sixteen years. Prices at the close of the month showed only slight variations from those paid during the first part of the month.

During the first ten days of March slaughter lambs at some markets advanced 10 to 25 cents a hundredweight and at most points they were fully steady. Good and choice fed woolled western lambs sold during this period generally from \$16 to \$16.85, although a few lambs did bring \$17. Northern Colorado feedlot lambs sold actively at Denver and topped at \$16.60 and \$16.70 F.P.R.* and \$16.40 and \$16.50 flat.* Prices at the corn belt centers ranged from \$16.50 to \$16.75. At St. Paul a load of choice 108-pound Montana lambs went over the scales at \$17. Medium and good wheat-pastured lambs ranged from \$14.25 to \$15.75. Good and choice, aged slaughter ewes sold during the first ten days of March generally in a range from \$8.75 to \$9.50, although a top of \$9.75 was reached in Chicago. Common to medium ewes changed hands at \$7 to \$8.50. Most good and choice feeding lambs sold actively at \$13 to \$14.50 and some mixed fat and feeder lots, as well as fleshy shearing lambs, topped at \$15.

During the week ending March 17 the market weakened somewhat, with prices steady to 25 cents lower on slaughter lambs. Market reporters attributed this price decline to a supply at several markets in excess of immediate slaughter requirements, and a consequent reflection in lower prices at all markets. Lamb quality reflected considerable variation at different markets. At several corn belt centers many of the lambs lacked finish while at Denver the quality was considered the best of the season. Most of the good and choice fed woolled western lambs marketed at \$16 to \$16.75 although \$17 was reached. Medium to good kinds ranged from \$14.50 to \$15.50. Good

and choice aged ewes brought, largely, \$8.75 to \$9.50 and blackfaced Idahos reached \$9.90 in Chicago. Feeding lambs again crossed the scales at \$13 to \$14.50.

Prices on all classes held fairly steady during the last two weeks of March, with most good and choice slaughter lambs selling at various markets from \$16 to \$16.85; medium to good kinds, \$14.25 to \$15.25; and slaughter ewes, \$8.75 to \$9.50.

Government statistics show, and probably no one will doubt, that industrial wages rose 100 per cent from 1940 to 1944 and farm wages, 204 per cent during the same period. Hay prices rose 126 per cent and corn prices 84 per cent, while sheep and lamb prices received by growers rose only 55 per cent. Labor costs are estimated to represent between 20 and 30 per cent of the sheepman's total operating costs, and feed, between 12 and 15 per cent, so it is not surprising to note that the study made by the U. S. Tariff Commission shows an average net loss to growers of \$1.22 per head on sheep and

lambs inspected on 1038 ranches in eleven western states for the year 1944.

If the above observations are correct, then it is obvious that present strengthened sheep and lamb prices are sorely needed and long overdue.

This year's early lamb crop is estimated to be about 6 per cent smaller than last year's crop as a result of the decrease in the number of breeding ewes. Consequently, marketings will be smaller this year although weather and feed conditions have generally been favorable, especially in the Pacific Coast region and adjoining states, as well as Texas. The weather was rather cold in the southeastern early lamb states, but development of the crop in most sections was considered to be about average.

Smaller lamb crops, coupled with announcements by the government that civilian supplies during the second quarter of 1944 will include more lamb and mutton, should be indicative of steady prices this spring. E.E.M.

*See explanation following Denver market report.

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

	1945	1944
Total U. S. Inspected		
Slaughter, First Two Months	3,695,000	3,434,000
Week Ended:	Mar. 24	Mar. 25
Slaughter at 32 centers	325,883	299,416
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Woolled)		
Good and Choice	\$ 16.84	\$ 16.42
Medium and Good	15.80	15.23
New York Average Western Dressed Lamb Prices*		
Choice, 30-40 pounds	26.50	26.38
Good, 30-40 pounds	25.00	24.88
Commercial, all-weights	23.00	22.88

Weight, Yield and Cost of Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered

	Feb. 1945	Jan. 1945	Feb. 1944
Average live weight (pounds)	97.2	96.4	94.1
Average yield (per cent)	45.3	45.3	45.6
Average Cost per 100 lbs. (\$)	14.17	12.61	14.53

Federally Inspected Slaughter—February

	1945	1944
Cattle	1,149,000	1,043,000
Calves	442,000	441,000
Hogs	3,267,000	7,380,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,622,000	1,501,000

*These carcass prices reported by the Livestock and Meats Branch of the W.F.A. are ceiling prices.

Denver

SHEEP receipts at Denver for March, 1945, will total approximately 185,000 head compared to 172,000 in March, 1944, or an increase of about 13,000 head. For the year of 1945 to date, sheep receipts will total approximately 384,000 head compared to 367,000 in 1944, or an increase of about 17,000 head.

The majority of loads offered during the first week of March were of well-finished quality and graded choice. A few loads of better quality ewes were also sold. Slaughter lambs were steady to 10 cents higher with ewes ruling steady to 25 cents higher. Feeding lambs were scarce and held steady. Choice slaughter lambs topped at \$16.50 flat and \$16.70 freight paid. Other choice loads brought \$16.10 flat to \$16.60 freight paid. Best trucked-in slaughter lambs reached \$16 with the bulk of the good to choice from \$15 to \$15.75. Good-to-choice loads of slaughter ewes made \$9.25, the highest price paid since 1929. Other loads went at \$8.75 to \$9. Best trucked-in slaughter ewes reached \$9. A few decks and a number of trucked-in lots of aged slaughter bucks went to killers at \$6.75 and \$7. Good-to-choice feeding lambs brought \$13 to \$14. Two loads of fleshy Wyoming feeder lambs made \$14.75, and a load of several trucked-in lots of mixed fats and feeders reached \$14.50.

The run of Colorado fed lambs expanded during the second week and the entire crop received was in the fleece. Nine doubles of 101-to-114-pound woolled lambs sold at \$16.70, freight paid, early in the week, these selling in line with the highest point since April, 1944. Over 40 doubles went at \$16.50 freight paid. Practically no good and choice truck-ins arrived. Medium-to-good kinds sold largely at \$14 to \$15.50. Sizable lots grading mostly good made \$15.75 early in the week. Fairly broad demand for feeding and shearing lambs supported lambs grading below choice to some extent. Choice woolled lambs predominated, with over 173 doubles being received for the week. Ewes worked mostly 25 cents higher under small receipts. Good and choice trucked-in lots made \$9 and \$9.10 took others. Medium-to-good trucked-in ewes sold at \$8 to \$8.75 and predominated. One sizable lot of good yearling wethers sold at \$14. A small volume of

April, 1945

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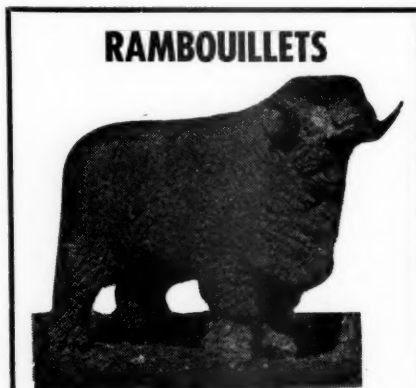
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feeding and shearing lambs held fully steady, in spots stronger. Shearing lambs averaging 75-to-88 pounds went out at \$14.25 to \$14.50. Feeders with less weight ranged from \$13 to \$14.25 in load lots.

For the third and last week under review, approximately 176 doubles of lambs arrived by rail. Nearly all were from Colorado feed lots and the majority graded choice. The top was \$16.60 freight paid and \$16.40 flat. Weights ran a little under the previous week, with very few lambs offered scaling over 112 pounds, and the heaviest stopping at 115 pounds. No clipped lambs arrived. Odd head yearlings were sorted off shipments at \$12 to \$14. A few loads of mostly good woolled lambs made \$15.75 flat and some good and choice sold at \$16 to \$16.25 flat. Only odd lots of truck-ins beat \$15.75. Very few good and choice ewes arrived. A few brought \$9 on slaughter account, but considerably more was quotable for the right kind, in trade opinion. With the exception of two loads of fleshy feeding lambs, selling about steady at \$14.40 late this week, the replacement trade was not tested.

Jacqueline O'Keefe



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Methods of Selling Sheep at Denver

THREE methods of selling sheep on the Denver Market are employed. These are termed flat, memo, and freight-paid. So far as the grower is concerned, the terms "flat" and "memo" mean the same. Both are on a basis of the grower paying the freight only to Denver. On the market the term "flat" indicates the sheep have been so handled that they may not be entitled to use the transit privilege or to move to some destination beyond Denver at the balance of the through rate. The term "memo" means that the selling commission firm has so handled the shipment that it may move to destinations beyond Denver at the through rate, and they guarantee this to the buyer.

The term "freight-paid" means freight paid to the Missouri River. It is only used on sheep during the spring season; they are sold this way so that all feed-lot lambs may be purchased on the same basis. Where during the fall the balance from Denver to the Missouri River from the various points of origin is generally the same, during the spring months on lambs moving from the feed lot, these balances vary to a large extent. Some of the lambs fed in northern Colorado may be moved through Denver enroute to the feed lot so that, if they originate north of Denver, an altogether different balance of the through rate exists. Some are also the excess or overflow lambs from nearby points and have an altogether different balance than the lambs which use the fattening-in-transit arrangement. The so-called freight-paid basis provides an equal basis for all more or less the same as is true in other commodities such as grain f.o.b. Chicago, steel at Pittsburgh plus, etc.

W. C. Crew, T. M.

St. Joseph

SHEEP receipts continue light; the total for March up to and including the 27th was 85,852 compared with 76,652 for the month of February and 130,293 for March a year ago.

Of the month's total, 17,134 came from Colorado feed-lots, 16,000 from Nebraska and Wyoming, 3,900 from Texas and New Mexico, and 23,400

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The lamb market has been a little uneven during the month and closing prices were 10 to 25 cents lower than a month ago. Best fed westerns sold \$16.60 @ 16.65 on late days, with others \$15.65 @ 16.25. Kansas wheatfield lambs were not of very attractive quality late in the month and sold largely as shearers. A small lot of 95-pound native springers arrived on the 27th and sold at \$16.65. Clipped lambs sold around \$15 on the close.

Aged sheep held to a generally steady course throughout the month. Best ewes sold \$8.75 @ 9.25 with common kinds down to \$4.50. Fat yearlings sold \$13 @ 14.50 during the month, with choice grades quoted around \$14.75 on the close.

H. H. Madden.

Chicago

THE range of prices was exceptionally narrow in the sheep market during the month, due mainly to the fact that the supply was exceptionally uniform in quality. The month's supply totaling 175,000 was the smallest for March, excepting last year, for more than half a century, and reflected the gradual decrease in production, predicated on uncertainty stemming from government regimentation and the shortage of help. The month's supply was about 38,000 larger than in March last year. For the year thus far the supply totals 70,000 more than for the same time last year. Shipments show a good lead over last year because of a much better demand for mutton products in eastern territory.

In spite of the increased supply for the month, which was largest since January, demand was active and strong for all good lambs and prices held up to a comparatively high level. The unusual scarcity of hogs had much to do with broadening the demand for lamb meat, as consumers were searching the markets for everything that would fill out the menu. The most stimulating factor, however, was the relatively high cost of beef cattle, most of which is reportedly sold on the black markets in the East. Local traders are of the opinion that lambs would be selling much higher than at present were it not for the fact that the ceiling on the dressed product puts a brake on ascending prices. So far as known, there is no black market of any importance on

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lamb. That is the reason that no "hot-house" lambs were raised for the Eastern market this year. Packers were not able to sell the dressed product above the ceiling price, legitimately.

Lamb prices showed very narrow fluctuation during the month. Prices were strong and the market active most of the time with prices pushed up as far as the ceiling would stand. At the peak, top reached \$17.10, highest that has been paid since April last year, and highest for the month of March since 1929. A large percentage of the month's supply came from Colorado with Wyoming and Nebraska contributing freely late in the month. All these lambs were well finished and sold at a narrow range, from \$16.50 to \$17. Eastern shippers took a large share of the top quality lambs and proved a substantial prop under the market. The average price of good lambs was \$16.50, which was the highest in sixteen years. Sales of short-fed lambs, under \$15 were comparatively small, though a few culls were sorted out at \$13 to \$14. Late in the month some shorn lambs showed up and sold at \$15.25 to \$15.60, having No. 1 and No. 2 pelts. Warmer weather is driving in more and more of these lambs.

It is not expected that any California or Arizona lambs will show up on this market this season, as demand on the Pacific Coast is sufficient to take all this crop. On that account local operators look for moderate supplies all during April and May with strong prospects that prices will hold up to the present level because of the general scarcity of meat. The nearby farm-fed lambs had better finish than usual, indicating that owners considered a good finish the best investment despite the high price of feed.

Aged sheep were comparatively scarce all month but met with a good demand. Ewes advanced to the highest level of the year and were highest in a good many years. Top reached \$10 for prime selections, with a large percentage selling at \$9 to \$9.50. Late in the month the movement from the wheatfields of Kansas started in noticeable volume. These ewes averaging 115-to 135-pounds sold at \$8.50 to \$9.25. Some shorn native ewes brought \$7.50 with common throwouts at \$6.

There was a good demand for yearlings at \$3.50 to \$5.50, but not many were offered. Demand was strong for feeder lambs which were exceptionally

scarce. These lambs were quotable at \$11.50 to \$13.50. Some shearing lambs averaging 92 pounds were taken out at \$15.

Farmers in the Middle West who have marketed most of their lambs are eager to fill up again with feeder lambs, believing that the gamble in this commodity is less risky than cattle under existing government regimentation and price fixing. Latest figures on the feeder movement show a decrease of about 20,000 for the year thus far compared with last year. Iowa buyers are the most aggressive. Not enough feeder lambs have been sold lately on the local market to fairly establish quotations but buyers are demanding a wide margin as a matter of safety.

Frank E. Moore

Kansas City

DURING the middle of the comparatively open winter just past, that is during January and early February, lack of freezing weather permitted wheat pastures in western Kansas to become so soft that large numbers of sheep were marketed to save

the wheat, and receipts at the Kansas City terminal reached near record proportions. The spring season however, opened early, the wheat took a new lease on life, and since the lambs were doing very well, marketings dropped off as they were held back to take advantage of the good pasture. Only in the last couple of weeks, therefore, have marketings again assumed large volume, as it becomes necessary to get all stock off the wheat before the middle of April, in order that a crop may be assured. Quality of lambs coming from the wheat has shown considerable variation, some shipments being in very good shape while others were very poor. The bulk, however, were of fairly desirable quality.

Arrivals of yearling wethers have practically ceased and at the present time they are not present in sufficient numbers to quote, and no comparisons can be made of the values of such kinds with those at the close of the previous month. To offset this, however, Wednesday, March 28, found the first shipment of spring lambs arriving from Texas. They averaged 99 pounds and brought \$16.35, which was 35 cents

above the top for fed woolled lambs on the same market session.

The next couple of weeks should see comparatively large marketings as the wheat pastures are cleaned up and by the time they have all arrived, spring lambs will undoubtedly be coming in volume. As compared with the close of February, good and choice fed woolled lambs, including those finished on wheat pasture, are 65 to 85 cents lower and are quotable from \$15.60 to \$16. Medium kinds are 75 cents lower at \$14.25 to \$15.25, and common grades are 50 cents lower at \$12 to \$14. Slaughter ewes of good and choice grades are generally 25 cents lower at \$8.50 to \$9 while common and medium lots are steady to 25 cents off at \$7 to \$8.25.

During the final week of the month good and choice clipped lambs with No. 1 skins brought \$15 to \$15.25 and medium and good lots with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts went at \$13.75. Shearing lambs met with a fairly broad demand at \$14 to \$15, with the bulk of the late arrivals selling at the lower end of that price range. A very few good and choice yearlings were available at

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Bob Riley

Omaha

WITH other types of meat scarce, a strong demand existed for lamb and mutton last month and the Omaha market experienced a healthy condition all the way through. Top fat lamb price was \$16.65; the highest March value since 1929. Liberal supplies, however, took the edge off the trade as the month ended and closing rates were 25 @ 50 cents lower than the February close. Receipts stood at about 190,000 or slightly below last year's liberal March offering.

March marked the peak of the fed-lamb season with the supply largely from feed lots in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Quality as a whole was very good. The big end of the offering cashed from \$16 to \$16.50 with \$16.25 the popular price. Numerous sales of truck-in fed lambs, some of which carried considerable mud, ranged from \$15.50 to \$16 and a few reached \$16.25. Supplies of fed western lambs to reach Omaha are expected to dwindle rapidly in the next 30 days.

Native lambs were scarce and best kinds were still quotable to \$16 at the close. Quite a few cornfed natives turned during the session up to \$16.25. Only a few shorn lambs reached the market; best kinds reached \$15.50.

Weather in the midwestern feeding area was favorable for lamb feeding last month; however, supplies of replacement lambs were scarce and at no time were enough lambs available to fill existing orders. Closing prices were fully steady to a little stronger than at the end of February. Those that were here brought from \$13.50 to \$14.50 with the top at \$14.60. The supply consisted mainly of warmed-up kinds originally from Wyoming and South Dakota. Odd pens of weighty shearing lambs sold up to \$15 toward the end of March. Most interests see only a fair demand ahead for shearing lambs because of the labor shortage in the feeding area.

Aged sheep prices were little changed last month in the face of dwindling supplies and closing rates held just about steady with the end of February. Best fed western ewes sold from \$9.25 to \$9.40, the latter price equaling Feb-

ruary's best time, which was highest since March, 1943. Western ewes of plainer quality turned all the way from \$7.75 to \$8.75 and the bulk of the native supply moved from \$8.75 down. Odd small pens of choice native ewes realized \$9. Lamby ewes met with little country demand and the bulk went to packer buyers. Fat yearlings were not as plentiful as the previous month and prices held about steady. Odd loads sold from \$14.25 to \$14.75.

Dave Lorenson

Small Early Lamb Crop

THE early lamb crop was reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on March 9, as being 6 per cent below that of 1944 and the smallest in the present decade. Reduction is due to smaller breeding flocks, as little difference is noted between the lambing percentage this year and last. This means that there will be fewer early lambs marketed before July 1. The report also indicates that there will be no such record run of grass fat yearling lambs and wethers from Texas as reached the markets last year.

Conditions in the important early lambing western states were reported as follows:

In California

Mild temperatures and well-distributed early winter rainfall brought on abundant new grass over most of the important early lambing areas and the early lambs made good growth. With normal rainfall and seasonal temperatures during the next two months, most of the early lambs should develop into slaughter lambs of above average quality. Because of the reduced number of breeding ewes the early lamb crop is some 6 or 7 per cent smaller than last year and the smallest since 1937. In view of the meat situation in California there probably will be few slaughter lambs shipped out of the state this season.

In Arizona

The early lamb crop is a little smaller than last year. The lambs have made good growth and will start to market in volume by the end of March. It

is expected that most of the slaughter lambs will go to Pacific Coast markets.

In Texas

Weather and feed conditions during the winter were quite favorable for the growth of the early lambs and the number of these is larger than last year. Marketings of new crop lambs before the first day of July may be larger than last year. But because of the much smaller number of last year's lambs carried over, the shipments of grass fat yearling lambs and wethers is expected to be much smaller than the record movement in May and June last year. The quality of these will be good if the present favorable prospects for spring feed are realized.

In the Northwestern Area

The winter in this area was generally favorable for the early lamb crop and the percentage crop is above average. Because of the sharp reduction in ewe numbers the number of early lambs will be considerably smaller than last year.

In Idaho weather to March 1 was favorable and feed supplies were adequate. The percentage lamb crop is reported well above average and losses have been light. The number of ewes in the early lambing areas is much smaller than a year ago. Prospects for early spring ranges are fairly good.

In Washington winter weather was quite favorable for early lambing and a good percentage crop of lambs was saved and early lambs have developed well. Prospects for spring range feed were improved by February rains but

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soil moisture is short. With favorable weather and ample feed, the early lamb crop in Oregon has developed well. The percentage lamb crop is about the same as last year—which was quite good, but ewe numbers are down from last year. Prospects for early pasture are good but for the ranges they are only fair.

In the southeastern states, similar conditions prevail to those in the West. Reductions in ewe numbers are the cause of smaller early lamb crops.

In the southeastern part of the country, early lambing conditions were only fairly good, and small early lamb crops are indicated, although reductions in ewe numbers rather than other losses are given as the cause, as lambing percentages about equal those of 1944.

Spring Lamb Contracts

THE California lamb crop commenced moving toward local markets during March, with the bulk reported as grading extremely well. Most of the killer lambs delivered from the Fresno-Los Banos section in March were contracted for \$14.75 to \$15.25 a hundred and weighed between 85 and 98 pounds, one lot scaling at 104 pounds.

In the Sacramento Valley a few contracts have been made on slaughter lambs. One lot of October and early November lambs scored \$15.85 per hundred weight. These scaled 101 pounds and carried a short freight rate. Other small packages to local butchers and Bay District packers secured \$15.25 to \$15.30 a hundred. Those that were delivered f.o.b. loading points the last week in March weighed 85 to 90 pounds.

★ ★ ★ ★

A recent report from northern Montana, according to the Office of Marketing Services, indicates that mixed whitefaced and blackfaced lambs have been contracted for fall delivery at 10½ cents per pound. These contracts are said to cover the ewes and wether lambs mixed, in other words the entire crop of lambs. One sizable lot of mixed whitefaced lambs ranging in the mountain area secured 12 cents per pound for fall delivery. A few sound-mouth ewes in the wool, to lamb in April, were taken at \$8 a head.

"When It's Springtime in The Rockies!"

By Peter Spraynozzle

JOE BUSH says, It's springtime in the Rockies when the herds look to the hills; when the bunch grass is a-greening in the greasewood and the sage; when the blackbirds in the tules with a gold piece on their wings send out their spring-time chorus, send it ringing, and then listen to the echo as it rolls back from the hills. It may be wet and drippy with a winter kind of chill, but it's plowing time and seeding time, lambing time and shearing time, when the range stock lift their eyesight to the hills.

Cities have their compensations, but there's a lure to the open range where the Bull Elk and the Buck Deer range their herds; where the softest little zephyr sets the aspen grove to quiver as though the leaves were whispering secrets to the trees; where the creek, deep in the canyon, sings and chatters on its way from the snow fields in the mountains to orchards in the valleys far below; where the eagle screams defiance; where the buzzard cuts the blue; where mountains etch the skyline; where the timber's tall and straight; where the hearts of men don't harbor envy, greed, and hate.

So Joe Bush and me, Peter, humbly ask our God to let us live and do our work on the open range where Nature plays the game; where wind and rain and snow storms crash the gate; where lightning plows a zig-zag furrow in the sky; where thunder rolls, and then, when the clouds break and the sun comes through, when bush and bough are festooned with the transparent jewels of a summer rain—where man is just a part of what there is, and takes what comes, just as, and where he is.

Joe and me, Peter, like the feel of desert sand beneath our feet. We love the scent of greasewood and the sage. We love the tune the wind plays in the trees—the lullaby when it stirs the bunch grass on the range. We love the timber and the mountains where snow caps stand as God-carved monuments far above the summer range; where the herder and his dog match wits with the subtle enemies of the flock—the bobcat, the coyote, and the lion.

Joe and me love the unfenced open range where all the elements play the game; where Nature frowns and smiles; where empty clouds race their shadows across the desert floor. Experiences have taught us to read and understand the signs the sunrise and the sunset print on bulletins posted in the sky. And so, Dear God, just leave us, Joe and me, just leave us where we're at with our flocks and herds, a horse to ride, a dog at heel, until that time when we hope to hear Thee say, "Well done" and bid us welcome to the home ranch just across the Great Divide.

Postscript

Joe Bush says the ladies who won honorable mention as the ten best dressed women of America ought not to take it too seriously or be too overly proud of their distinction. After all, the best outfit in any wardrobe is made of secondhand material cut down to size from the outer garment of a sheep.

Peter Spraynozzle
Of Sheepfold, Utah, U. S. A.

Shearing time

is also

PTZ* time



Shearing time provides an ideal opportunity to give the flock that *essential* spring worming.

As each ewe comes off the shearing floor, take a minute to give her PTZ before turning her loose.

Give her PTZ because it is a phenothiazine remedy that removes six species of sheep roundworms, *including* stomach worms *and* nodular worms.

Use *either* PTZ Pellets or PTZ Powder in a drench for this spring dosing. (PTZ Powder is *made to mix with water*.) We think *individual treatment is important* at this time. Get PTZ from your Dr. Hess Dealer. A pound of PTZ Powder is \$1.25, *less* per lb. in quantity.

*PTZ distinguishes the phenothiazine products of Dr. Hess & Clark. They give maximum convenience and effectiveness. Sold only in original packages.

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ASHLAND, OHIO

Auxiliary Activities

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Auxiliary Blanket Awards

FOR several years past the National Auxiliary has been offering awards to stimulate the use of wool in clothing apparel among the younger generation, specifically the 4-H girls. This year five young ladies were given wool blankets for exceptional work in designing, making and wearing wool costumes in the National 4-H Dress Revue, which was a feature of the 1944 Club Congress in Chicago early last December. The winners were: Betty Johnson, Cookeville, Tennessee; Betty Joyce James, Sumiton, Alabama; Joyce S. Mooers, Skamokawa, Washington; Lois Gert-rude Mullinex, Dayton, Maryland; and Roberta Mohr, Eldridge, Iowa.

In commenting about these awards, H. C. Seymour, state club leader of Oregon, writes:

"... this year we had many more wool dresses than ever before entered. As you know, only one girl from a state is allowed to participate in the contest. The state winner is the girl who represents her state in the national contest. At Chicago, some 42 states participated in this contest and, as I remember, 23 girls modeled wool dresses. This is a fine record that all who are interested in wool may be proud of.

"You have already received the names of the five girls who were awarded the wool blankets, one from each section—west, south, central, and east—and then one at large. These were the given tops in the group. The plan is to have the blankets presented



The above picture was taken of a window in the Meier and Frank store, Portland, Oregon, during the State 4-H Exhibit there last fall. The winning fleeces are displayed along the bottom; then up along the sides, the dyed wool; then the yarn in its various stages of manufacturing, and the bolted goods. At each end of the picture is one of the winning woolen dresses in the contest sponsored by the Wool Growers' Auxiliary.

Mr. L. J. Allen, assistant Oregon State club leader, to whom we are indebted for the picture, writes that this window display was the center of interest for the full week it was shown. Mr. Clarence Bishop of the Pendleton Woolen Mills provided the display materials showing the manufacturing, and the goods in bolts.

to the girls at some public meeting in their respective states.

"We are mighty proud of this fine interest that you have shown in our wool dress projects and I know that many of our 4-H Club members who are competing in their community fairs first, then in county and state fairs, start their work when they are ten and eleven years old. They have in mind these goals that are to be reached: county, state, and national honors, and they work pretty hard for them. This year one of our club members who made the trip to Chicago told me he had been working for some seven years with the thought that some day he might win state honors and perhaps get a chance at national honors. Well, he did. So that is just the way they are working, thousands of 4-H Club members all over the United States.

"Those of us connected with the administrative side of the work do appreciate the fine cooperation that the

Wool Growers' Association and the Auxiliary of the Wool Growers have been giving to the work."

Letters from state leaders in other states where these blankets were awarded have also been received, testifying to their regard for the interest the auxiliary has been taking in this phase of their work.

A "close-up" of the blanket-winning girls follows:

Betty Johnson, 16, of Cookeville, Tennessee, won top state rating in the National 4-H Dress Revue for her record in planning, selecting, making, caring for and wearing serviceable clothing, expressive of her personality. Her winning outfit was remodeled from a man's suit, with new checked material for the blouse, at a total cost of \$2.36. Betty has given many remodeling demonstrations, and won championship award in her district and won grand prize in the state.

Betty Joyce James, 16, Sumiton, Alabama, is the 1944 state winner in the National 4-H Dress Revue. During her five years of 4-H work she has completed three

projects in sewing, one in canning, one in cooking, and one in home improvement. In her report, Betty says:

"I have learned many hints in my sewing about seams, fitting and economy, about what kinds of materials are better for certain occasions. I have also learned to improve my cooking. For the past two years my club projects have been sewing projects. I decided to learn to sew in order that I might enter the dress revue. I made ten garments the first year that I sewed; but I did not enter the dress revue that year. The next year I made 25 garments. This included dresses, curtains, kitchen towels, and other household things. During that year I made five dresses for friends, charging 75 cents per dress. This last year I made 35 garments. This year has been important to me in that I have sewed all types of materials, including cotton, silk, wool and rayon. I sewed some for my younger sister, knitted a sweater, made five stationery holders, and made a dozen Army apron bags."

Betty's virgin Botany wool dress with hat and purse to match is blue with brown wool thread for the hand stitching. It cost \$12.60. She plans to wear it to church, town, parties or to school.

Joyce E. Mooers, 15, Skamokawa, Washington, a 4-H'er six years, was state winner in the 1944 National 4-H Dress Revue with her all-wool brown-and-white checked sport suit, worn with a gold-colored blouse of wool jersey. The gold color was chosen because it blends with the handbag she made from the hide of the first deer she shot. It is lined with gold jersey. For accessories, she chose dark brown leather gloves and pumps, and a brown felt half-hat. Joyce thinks the cardigan style jacket is becoming to her and particularly likes the well-padded shoulders which, by the way, permit her to make use of her own special idea of making shoulder pads out of filter pads.

Lois Gertrude Mullinex, 20, Dayton, Maryland, a club member for five years, specialized in clothing projects, but completed others of value, such as poultry raising, gardening, canning, food preparation, landscaping, and room improvement. The Home Demonstration Agent speaks of her exceptional sewing ability, her work being "by far the best and most accurate for a young girl," ever seen by the agent.

Lois' costume with which she won top state honors in the National 4-H Dress Revue is a black-and-white check wool suit, designed according to prevailing fashions. It has a straight-hanging pleated skirt containing four gores. The jacket has good wide shoulders, rayon lined with a form-front which gives the suit a custom-tailored effect. This suit of good wool, with handmade buttonholes, three medium-sized buttons, and of not too tailored a cut, can look like a sports suit or a soft suit. Total cost of the suit, materials and findings, was \$19.27. To wear with it, she made a white rayon satin blouse made from pre-war material. For accessories she chose black gloves, handbag and pumps.

Roberta Mohr, 20, Eldridge, Iowa, nine years in 4-H work, has completed projects in clothing, nutrition, home furnishings and home efficiency. She is the 1944 Iowa State winner in the National 4-H Dress Revue. She was a member of the champion clothing demonstration team in Scott County in 1944 and was selected as the best dressed girl. Roberta's smart wool jersey outfit with sequin trim, complete with accessories including hat, purse, gloves and shoes cost \$25.57.

In her report Roberta says: "I had my fingers crossed when I went shopping. I was hoping that even in these days of shortages of materials, I might find what I was looking for. My buying tour turned out quite successfully. Although I found it impossible to get all-wool jersey, I did secure 85 per cent wool and 15 per cent cotton material. I then chose black velvet for my accessories to contrast with the yellow."

The Sheepman's Dilemma

(Continued from page 10)

It should be pointed out that it is very difficult to get reliable estimates as to the livestock situation in Nazi-occupied territories. The evidence would indicate, however, that the Nazi parasites are leaving little of value behind them. I recently read a letter from a major in the United States Army who is now in Italy. He pointed out that, in all the territory in Italy from which the Nazis have retreated, he had not seen a sign of a pig or a cow, and only a few goats. Apparently, the Danes have fared somewhat better, but they are limited because of lack of feeds. Likewise, feed is the limiting factor on the British Isles, and because of this, the feed stuffs that are available have been devoted largely to the feeding of dairy cattle. The great gap in our knowledge of the livestock situation of Europe appears to be regarding Russia. As previously indicated, the Ukraine is Russia's most fertile area. Only some 10 per cent of the cattle were evacuated at the time of the Russian retreat, and there appears to be little evidence as to what has happened to the remainder.

The Postwar European Purebred Market

Even with the probable 25 to 50 per cent depletion in livestock numbers in Europe, the breeders in the U. S. must not assume that there will be an enormous postwar market in Europe. The factors mitigating against such exportations are clearly set forth below.

1. Large imports of animals impossible because of limited feeds.
2. Want their own breeds.
3. Wider usage of artificial insemination planned to
 - a. Make greater usage of outstanding sires.
 - b. Lower disease
4. Money may limit any foreign purchases.
5. Shipping space may be a bottleneck.

The Producer Can Help Himself

In this discussion we have spent considerable time in reviewing the status of the livestock industry, particularly with regard to meat and wool requirements and regulatory measures which have been instituted by the federal government during the present emergency. Sometimes I feel that we are all inclined to "holler" so much about regimentation that we have forgotten to help ourselves in the dilemma. In summary, I wish to point out that the producer can help himself to a considerable extent simply by practicing those things which he already knows. These points are summarized as follows:

THE PRODUCER CAN HELP HIMSELF BY:

1. Practical improved nutrition.
2. Using all by-product feeds effectively.
3. Saving more new born animals.
4. Avoiding bruises—more than half of market animals carry bruises.
5. Producing more feed.
6. Keeping livestock numbers in balance with normal feed supplies.
7. Improving pastures—over-grazing is costly as shown by cattle experiments 1933-34 on the U. S. Range Livestock Experiment Station, Miles City, Montana:

Intensity of grazing	% calf crop	Average wt. calves at birth	Per cow increase in lbs. calf weaned
Over-grazed range	75	68.4	-
Moderately grazed range	97½	74.9	37 lbs.

8. Culling rigidly—keeping utility points in mind—such as

A. Value in size of ewes as shown in report of Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory:

Wt. of ewes pounds	Fleece Wt. Lbs.	% lambs weaned	Increase in lbs. lambs
119 & below	11.7 lbs.	79%	
120-129	12.0 lbs.	85	5 lbs.
130 & above	11.9 lbs.	97	9 lbs.

- B. Face covering—in favor of open-faces over wool blind ewes:

9 pounds more lamb yearly

9. Preventing diseases and parasites. A tabulation of annual losses from diseases and parasites:

Internal parasites	\$125,000,000
Cattle grubs	65,000,000
Bang's disease	30,000,000
Swine erysipelas	1,000,000
Hemorrhagic Septicemia	500,000
All others	196,000,000
Total losses	\$418,000,000

Feed is always too costly to give to worms and bugs.

¹Taken from 1942 Yearbook of Agriculture.

Grazing District Quarterly Notes

The following information is furnished by the Grazing Service, Salt Lake City, based on the quarterly reports of the regional graziers for the period January 1 to March 31, 1945.

ARIZONA

(C. F. Dierking, Regional Grazier)

Spring feed showed some deterioration late in February but early March rains have alleviated this situation in most areas. Range conditions at present are very favorable and, with good spring weather, the lower ranges will be good to excellent. Additional moisture will be needed to mature a full crop of spring feed. To date cool weather and some wind have retarded proper growth except in favored localities where livestock are getting adequate green feed.

There has been sufficient run-off to furnish surface water in some places which allowed livestock to use old feed, while in other areas surface tanks have not caught water and livestock are still on permanent waters.

Most of the livestock shipped to California pastures last fall have been sold at prices satisfactory to growers. Few contracts for spring delivery have been made at prices satisfactory to growers.

Lambing and shearing is finished in the Maricopa District, with prospects for a normal crop in the Strip District where sheep are moving to the range from winter pastures.

Sheepmen have been slow to move onto the desert but no doubt will do so with increasing numbers in the near future. Stockmen are still confronted with manpower shortages but are coping with the situation very well. Many labor-saving improvements have been installed to alleviate the situation.

COLORADO

(Russell B. Rose, Regional Grazier)

Unusually mild weather prevailed in Colorado grazing districts during the quarter ending March 31. Mild weather, coupled with average-to-good forage conditions, has reduced the usual drain

on hay and concentrate supplies. Livestock have wintered well on the range. Stock water is adequate as a result of recent rains. A normal amount of snow on the high mountain ranges gives promise of good summer grazing conditions and ample water supplies for the forthcoming irrigation season.

A considerable turnover of ranches continues in all districts and there is also quite a large volume of transfers of grazing privileges under section 7 of the Federal Range Code.

Approximately 200 head of surplus horses have been removed from the Colorado grazing districts during the past quarter as an aid in conserving feed for permitted livestock. Big game in the grazing districts have come through the winter in good to excellent condition.

IDAHO

(Kelso P. Newman, Regional Grazier)

Frequent rains and thawing weather have kept feed lots and lower ranges of Idaho rather wet but the mild winter has been very favorable for this type of operation. Late February storms added somewhat to snow cover, which has been well below normal. The early growth of spring range feed was retarded by recent freezing weather.

Hay supplies for winter feeding have been plentiful and there will be some carryover. Cull onions have been mixed with hay and other feed and used widely in some localities.

A summary of advisory board recommendations on grazing applications for 1945 indicates that the number of sheep has been reduced further and cattle have increased slightly.

Shed lambing operations are completed and favorable results are reported from all sections.

MONTANA

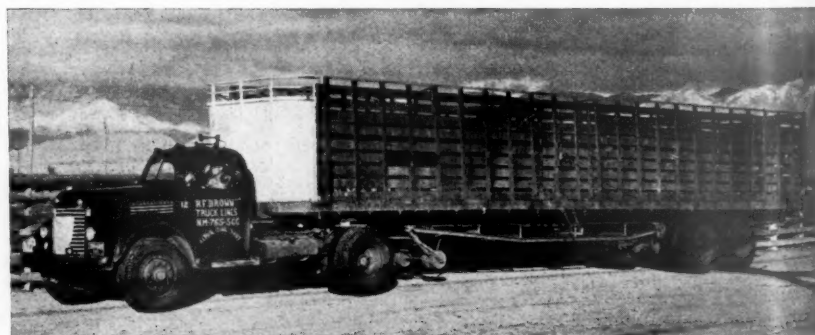
(R. E. Morgan, Regional Grazier)

Sheep, generally, have wintered well in Montana and flockmasters report that the herds are in good condition. The winter has been open with just sufficient snow in most areas to warrant good grazing.

Shortage of snow in the Malta District in northern Montana created a stock water problem in the area north of the Milk River.

Several periods of subzero weather were experienced, but they were only of short duration and consequently were not severe on the sheep. The November snow in the southeast part of the state melted down and caused an

NEW STYLE CATTLE TRAILER



Sixty-one head of cattle, 150 sacks of wool, 39 head of horses and 23 head of 1400-pound Brahma bulls are a few of the loads carried in this trailer, a Fruehauf 45-foot tandem-axle unit, hauled by an International tractor. Including the tractor, it has a 59½ foot over-all length. The racks are six feet high and have two partitions forming three separate pens in the trailer length. Due to the removal of a railroad feeder line, the trailer provides the only means of moving cattle from Cimarron, New Mexico, to the Santa Fe Railroad at Raton, New Mexico.

ice condition, but the sheep have done well by the use of supplemental feed.

In the irrigated areas in the south central and southwest part of the state where shed lambing is practiced extensively, the bands were moved from the ranges in late February and early March to the ranches to go on full feeding preparatory for lambing. Nearly all range sheep are now receiving supplemental feed.

Only a few sales of sheep have been reported during this quarter. Mixed aged sheep have been reported selling at \$10 and \$10.50 per head. Inquiries made brought forth the information that no 2-year-old ewes are changing hands. A few carloads of fat lambs were shipped out of the Bridger District in south central Montana at \$13.50 to \$14.75.

NEVADA-CALIFORNIA

(Nic W. Monte, Regional Grazier)

Range conditions throughout the seven districts have been greatly improved by an excessive amount of moisture in the form of rain and snow during the month of February. Desert ranges within the Mojave and Searchlight districts have been favored with a 3-to-5 inch blanket of snow. Desert forage was coming exceptionally good prior to this precipitation. Stockmen are looking forward jubilantly to an extra good spring unless an unusual amount of cold prohibits normal growth of vegetation. California lambs have good growth at this time. Hay supplies have been adequate in most areas. It is anticipated there will be an above-normal carryover of hay for the year. Extreme cold weather in the north-central part of Nevada during the winter greatly affected cattle and sheep, but with recent warm weather and moisture a favorable outlook is ahead.

Livestock losses have been normal during the winter period. Coyote control is still a major problem with sheepmen. Losses in certain areas have been reported as heavy. Representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service are trying out new methods of control in the Elko District by the use of an airplane, with results that show good promise, especially in rugged territory difficult of access by ordinary means.

NEW MEXICO

(E. R. Greenslet, Regional Grazier)

Mild open weather and generally favorable range conditions enabled livestock to winter well with less than normal supplemental feeding. Supplies of protein supplements are adequate in most districts.

An exception to the generally good range condition is in the west-central part of the state where rainfall has been subnormal for the past two years. Otherwise ranges are good and with a good start in the growth of annuals, the vegetation is generally satisfactory, especially in the eastern and southwestern sections.

Stockwater reservoirs throughout the western half of the state have adequate supplies in storage. The situation in the eastern half, however, is below present requirements due to below-normal run-off.

Livestock sales are slow except in the west-central part where it has been necessary to cut down to meet the unsatisfactory range feed situation. On the other hand the turnover of ranch properties continued brisk during the winter, high prices having been received in the southern districts.

Condition of sheep throughout the region is good and, except for certain excessive losses due to predatory animals, the losses have been kept to a minimum.

CHACO DISTRICT, New Mexico

(Harry W. Naylor, Regional Grazier)

An exceptionally mild open winter in the northwestern part of New Mexico has been a lifesaver to stock grazing on the open range without supplemental feed.

At this time, March 5, stock are in better-than-average condition in spite of the fact that last year was very dry and winter feed looked very discouraging. Sufficient moisture in the form of snow and rain has been received to keep the forage soft and furnish water for the dryer parts of the range, but at no time enough to hinder the movement of stock or a heavy demand on proteins.

Quite a demand for good feeder stock of all kinds is indicated by inquiries, but no sales have been reported.

OREGON

(K. C. Ikeler, Regional Grazier)

The Oregon grazing districts received abnormally light snowfall until February 1. After this date considerable moisture came as rain and snow, most of which ran off the watersheds. While range lands are now wet, prospects are not good for a favorable grazing season. With below-average snow cover in the mountains, irrigation water will be short for the hay crop. Seasonal rains will be needed for both the range and the meadows.

The winter district advisory board meetings were characterized by requests for additional range survey so that adjudication of the range might be completed. Because of shortage of range riders, the districts have received many requests for the construction of drift fences.

With a normal spring there should be enough hay although the price is high. Lambing, thus far, is reported light. Plans are made to shoot coyotes from an airplane around lambing bands of sheep. An increasing number of ranches are changing hands in the Oregon Region.

UTAH

(Chas. F. Moore, Regional Grazier)

A surprisingly agreeable winter has been enjoyed by Utah since the first of the year, though some of the range areas—especially in the western part of the state—experienced a normal amount of precipitation. The snowfall was spotty, and several areas, notably in the south-central part of the state and in the Vernal section, are experiencing drought conditions. Stock-watering facilities were, therefore, the greatest problem in range-livestock operations, but with certain exceptions the lack of watering facilities was not too acute.

The mildness of the winter and the unexpected adequacy of the ranges have placed the livestock in very good condition, and this was accomplished with a minimum of supplemental feeds. Livestock on ranches and in feed yards likewise have profited by the pleasant weather and ample feed supplies of hay and grain on hand. The stock will go into the spring in excellent shape. Minimum losses are reported from all sections.

WYOMING
(Milton W. Reid, Regional Grazier)

The ranges throughout the region have had a real break during the past three months. During the entire winter as a whole favorable range feed and weather conditions have prevailed, resulting in reduced operating expenses far below last winter for the greater portion of the operators. Spotty conditions exist along the entire eastern portion of the region, running through Carbon and Fremont counties, and in the southeastern portion of the Big Horn Basin where localized areas have had too much snow for livestock to make normal use of the winter ranges.

In general, both sheep and cattle have wintered well up to this time with ample feed in sight to carry them through until spring feed is available. Some shrinkage has occurred in the heavy snow areas, but is not expected to result in heavy losses.



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Around The Range Country

Around the Range Country is the individual sheepman's section of the National Wool Grower and is open for reports of range and livestock conditions and other information or expressions of opinion on problems of interest to sheepmen generally.

California

South Fork, Humboldt County

Feed and weather conditions on the range are not as bad as they were in February but not as good as they were in March, 1944. Due to the cold weather the feed on the ranges is somewhat short. More supplemental feeding has been required than last year but there fortunately is a sufficient amount.

I understand that locally there are fewer lambs than last year. I didn't require any help during lambing. If I had, I couldn't have found any.

As yet I have not located this year's supply of bags for our clip. We can get some wire fencing but lumber is hard to obtain and it is of a poor quality. Bobcats are active but our trapper is getting quite a few. We can get ammunition.

I believe the net income was less during 1944. Though the wool sales were satisfactory, the returns on lamb and mutton were not.

We hope that the O.P.A. or whoever is responsible for putting the points on lamb can be induced to take them off during the months of June, July, and August. This rationing of lamb has cost the sheepmen of every locality lots of money and the country's food supply millions of pounds of good meat.

A. W. Cummings

Idaho

Homedale, Owyhee County

The weather has been good with the exception of a severe snowstorm which made it necessary for some outfits to haul supplementary feed to the sheep. We have had more moisture and feed than usual. The flocks have wintered well and are in good condition. More supplemental feeding, however, was required than last year and there is barely enough of it (March 31).

Shearing is over and some of the folks in this locality have already signed contracts with wool handlers.

Shearers were paid 20 cents with board and 22 cents without board. We had a sufficient supply of burlap bags.

Lambing is over and I would judge there was about a 15 per cent increase in the number of lambs saved per 100 ewes over that of last year. We had a "nip-and-tuck" time in securing lambing help.

The outlook toward securing repair parts and materials is not as dark as it was. The coyotes are bad but I am getting by on the shells that I have been able to get.

Baldwin F. Brown

Jerome, Jerome County

The first two weeks of March were very warm with feed starting to grow in most sections, but the latter part of the month was cold and stormy. Although our grazing districts opened March 24, I do not believe the majority of the sheep will get out until the first of April or after, which is about the same as in past years. The water and feed conditions are good in this section (March 28). The sheep came in in good shape and for most part have wintered well. Because of the mild winter, less supplemental feeding has been required. I know of no one in the section who has signed with any wool dealer as yet.

As most of the lambing here is done in the sheds, it is about all over at this time. The percentage of lambs this year has been unusually large. Most of the outfits report the yield to be from 135 per cent up to 150 per cent.

Labor has been fair through lambing, although we are always short of experienced help. There has been such a cut in the flocks during the past two or three years that I do not think anyone will have much trouble getting shearers. The shearers are charging 35 cents a head, furnishing all the equipment.

I have placed my order for wool bags which are supposed to be burlap. I understand they are having trouble delivering them and are about two months behind on the orders.

We need new pick-up trucks and need them badly. Ours are in such a

shape that we are getting to where we cannot take care of our business. They are continually breaking down and repair parts are hard to get. We have had promises of a new unit but it has reached the point where we need more than a promise. Any assistance we could get would be greatly appreciated.

Shells have been hard to get and the coyotes are taking a greater toll each year.

Because of increased costs of operating, net profits have been cut to a minimum. Continual increasing of wages, costs of feed and the majority of supplies seem certain.

Sam and Denis Burks

Montana

Winnett, Petroleum County

Weather and feed conditions on the winter range have been much better than average and losses, lighter. Twenty per cent of the sheep are being fed hay and grain and 80 per cent cake (March 2). Alfalfa is selling at \$12 a ton.

There has been a decrease in the number of stock ewes during the past year. The outlook toward obtaining shearers is not so good, but we have our supply of burlap bags. We are having some difficulty in getting canned goods and are unable to get steel posts. We are not able to get shells in any quantity. The net income is cut way down because of the high price of labor.

Ernest Hansen

New Mexico

State College, Dona Ana County

The weather conditions have been fair to good and the winter losses light. The ewes have been fed on a 25 per cent winter supplement basis. This is a little lighter than a year ago. We can get cottonseed cake, pellets, hay and bundle feed. Cottonseed cake costs about \$56 a ton and pellets \$20 to \$30 a ton. Alfalfa hay, all baled, sells at \$26 to \$28 a ton. There has been a decrease by 10 per cent or more in the number of stock ewes in the section.

Shearing is already (March 7) in operation in the southern part of the state. We have our supply of burlap bags for this year's clip, but are having some trouble with rationed items like

sugar, etc. Sheepmen are not having much difficulty in getting repair parts and lumber, etc. The predatory situation is bad in some sections.

Ivan Watson
Extension Service

South Dakota

Camp Crook, Harding County

Most places here are covered with ice and snow (February 27). I have some grazing here and have the sheep out every nice day. The losses through the winter were about average. We feed hay to the big band on stormy days, which is about the same as last year. We can get barley at \$36 a ton and corn at \$44.40 a ton, and good wheat grass can be purchased at \$10 a ton.

We will obtain a local crew for shearing and have our burlap bags.

We are having some trouble getting parts for the tractor and need tires for the truck also. I would like to get a few pieces of plywood. The coyotes are bad and we have no shells. So far the hunting planes haven't come here yet.

The net incomes of 1943 and 1944 were about the same as we haven't hired much of this expensive help. Those that have been able to get hired help haven't done so well.

Ed Marty

Utah

Tropic, Garfield County

Weather, range and feed conditions on my range have been normal there

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having been little variation in the past three years. The sheep have wintered well and are in good condition. We have been feeding supplements about the same as last year. Some of us have signed contracts already as that was the only thing we could do.

We could not get sufficient lambing help and the men we did get were not very good. The outlook for shearers is not too good either. We have plenty of burlap bags for this year's clip. The materials most essential to our industry we are unable to obtain such as gasoline and rubber.

Predators are increasing very rapidly and I haven't been able to get shells at all for the last six months. Operating costs have increased about 40 per cent over the last two years.

Sam Pollock

Our Bill of Rights

(Continued from page 23)

States, than according to the rules of the common law.

VIII

Protection Against Excessive Bail and Punishments

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

IX

Constitution Does Not List All Individual Rights

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

X

Powers Reserved to the States and the People

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Our Constitution and its Bill of Rights are founded on the religious convictions that every human life is sacred. They assure freedom, and release the creative powers of men. As shield and armor, they protect life, liberty and property, for you and your children. Know and guard them well!

Grading Lamb and Mutton

(Continued from page 19)

within the grades than are shown in the lamb grade specifications.

Grading is, in reality, a rating of carcasses according to a defined degree of excellence, for a specified purpose. Those carcasses that possess the highest degree of conformation, finish, or quality are called Prime. The carcasses that are deficient in one factor or very slightly deficient in two are put in the Choice grade. For the duration of the emergency, Prime lamb is stamped Choice. Carcasses that are deficient in two factors or markedly deficient in

one, are placed in Good grade, whereas carcasses deficient in all three factors are graded Commercial. Below Commercial, the carcasses are graded Utility and Cull, depending on relative degree of deficiencies.

The grade specifications, although minutely described in our standards, leave much to be interpreted. Because the products we grade do not lend themselves to definitions in terms of objective measurements, we are forced to resort to subjective terms in drafting specifications, much of which have only relative meaning. Hence the opportunity for disagreement in the interpretations of the standards is very apparent.

The grade standards were established in normal times and we were given the duty as disinterested parties to apply them in the grading of meat. To the very best of our ability we are attempting to perform the grading service in an unbiased way, recognizing that we are in effect occupying the position of arbitrator between producer and consumer. It is our duty and responsibility not to favor either group. The performance record of the grading service is offered as evidence of the proper discharge of that responsibility.

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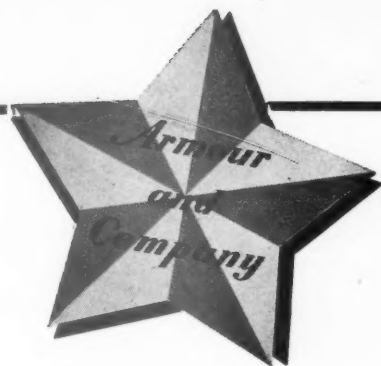
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★ Perhaps the most highly competitive market in the world is that on which American livestock producers sell their cattle, sheep and hogs. The competition in buying of livestock is so keen that those who handle and process meat animals average to pay out of their raw material (livestock) about 75 per cent of their total income from the sale of meat and by-products, and their annual earnings on the meat and by-products which they sell represent only an infinitesimal part of a penny per pound of product.

Nothing in the world, other than the keenest kind of competition in both the buying of livestock and the selling of the products, would

hold profits of the processors to such small figures (one-fifth of a cent a pound in 1941.)

The competition is so keen that even old and well established firms are under constant pressure to obtain sufficient raw materials. The available supply of livestock is what determines the volume of the meat business and if a competitor is allowed to buy an ever-increasing portion of the market receipts that competitor will inevitably increase his volume of business at the expense of other competitors in the trade.

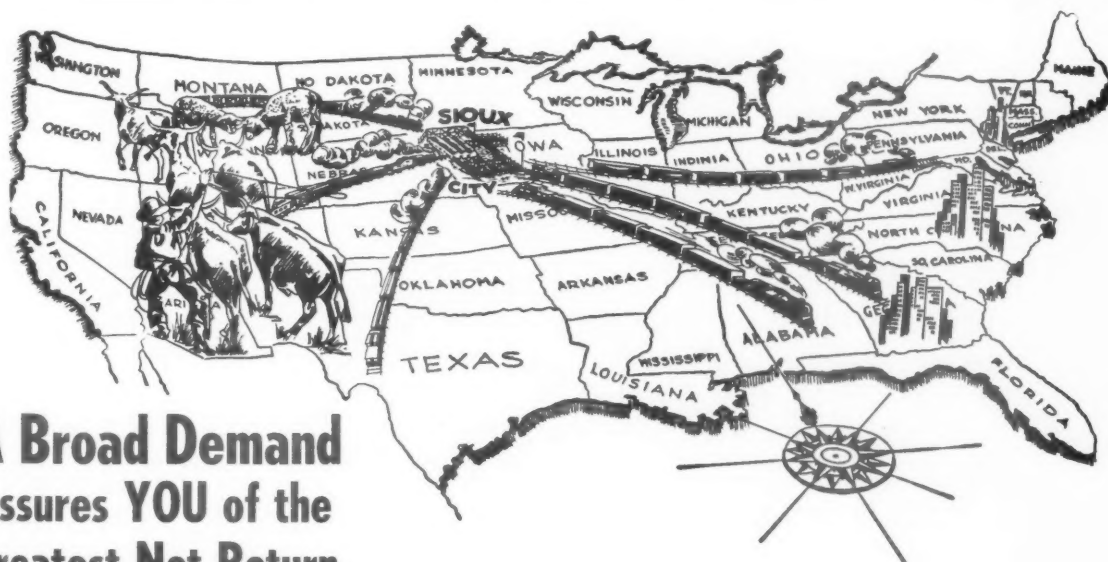
So it is constantly necessary for us to watch the operations of competitors and to match their efforts in

the matter of obtaining supplies that we may not lose ground and fall back in our business which we have been years in building up.

It is this "watch and match the other fellow" situation which makes the packing business the most highly competitive in the world and holds the profits to such small figures.

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